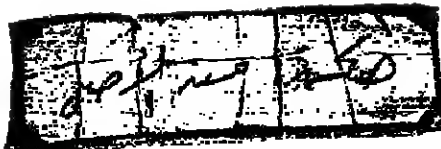


Reagan looks forward to summit

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan said Saturday the Moscow summit would allow him to convey a "message of peace and freedom" to the Soviet Union but he cautioned that difficult issues remained between the two nations. Reagan, with visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at his side, last Wednesday announced he would hold his fourth summit with Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev on May 29-June 2. "This meeting will give me, and in a sense you the American people, an opportunity to convey a message of peace and freedom to the Soviet Union," the president said in his weekly radio address Saturday. Reagan, whose visit to the Soviet Union will be the first during his presidency and the first by any U.S. president for 14 years, said talks here last week between Shevardnadze and Secretary of State George Shultz had been useful. "But," they also made clear how difficult the issues are between the United States and the Soviet Union," he said. "Some progress was made here and there in various areas but there's much more that needs to be done given the importance of the topics discussed."



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة.

France plans new arrests

PARIS (R) — France has identified the people responsible for a series of deadly bombings in Paris in 1986 and is seeking culprits in the Middle East, a French investigating magistrate was quoted as saying Saturday. Magistrate Gilles Bouloque told the daily newspaper Le Figaro he had finished his 18-month inquiry into the bombings, which killed 13 people and injured over 200. "All those responsible for the attacks have been identified. Some fled to Lebanon and are being sought actively. New arrests are likely in the coming weeks." The attacks in September 1986 in crowded shops and restaurants were claimed by a shadowy group calling itself the Solidarity Committee for Arab and Middle Eastern Political Prisoners. French police arrested eight suspects of Middle Eastern origin after the bombings but Bouloque Friday ordered the release of one of them, saying there was insufficient proof to convict him. The release of Mohammad Moushajer, a 35-year-old Frenchman of Lebanese origin with prominent Shi'ite connections, came amid speculation that Prime Minister Jacques Chirac was negotiating the imminent return of three French hostages held in Lebanon.

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Kreisky blasts Israeli 'crypto-fascist apartheid'

VIENNA (AP) — Former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has accused Israel of being a "crypto-fascist regime" in its policy toward Palestinians living in the occupied territories. Kreisky sharply criticized the Israeli occupation of Arab land and Israeli leaders, above all one-time premier Menachem Begin, while he was chancellor until 1983. He launched his latest attack on Israel in a lecture to the society for Arab culture at Vienna's international centre Thursday evening. "Israel behaves toward the Palestinians as a crypto-fascist apartheid regime," Kreisky said, according to the Austria Press Agency. He added it was exactly the 15 million Jews throughout the world who were obliged to come out against this "incomprehensible brutality."

Libya denies Chadian accusations

BEIRUT (R) — Libya denied Saturday charges by Chad that it has stepped up military flights over Chad territory and is massing troops on the border ahead of a planned "incursion." The official Libyan news agency JANA quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as denying "lies and allegations by Chad relating to Libyan military preparations for an attack on Chad."

Velayati to visit Greece tomorrow

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will fly to Greece Monday for a three-day official visit, Tehran Radio said Saturday. The radio said Velayati was invited by Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Poulas, who visited Iran last June.

Kurds hang Turkish teacher

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish guerrillas hanged a village primary school teacher in southeast Turkey, alleging he was an informer, security sources said Saturday. Seven Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) guerrillas attacked Bagdaz village near the town of Mardin, close to the Syrian border, Friday night. The guerrillas dragged Mohammad Yildiz out of the village and hanged him from a tree. It was the third such hanging of a teacher in recent months. Kurdish guerrillas are fighting for autonomy in the region.

Belgium plans to end its Gulf mission

BRUSSELS (AP) — The government said Friday it planned to end Belgium's mine-sweeping mission in the war-torn Gulf July 1. Defence Minister Francois-Xavier de Donnea said he would recall Belgium's Flotilla, currently consisting of a mine sweeper and a supply ship, if the situation in the area does not deteriorate.

U.S. troops regroup in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — U.S. troops assigned to Honduras last week wound up war games and started regrouping Saturday to return home. Military sources said. Convoys of trucks were reported on roads to Jamastran and San Lorenzo, in the south near the Nicaraguan border, and Juti-galpa, northeast of here.

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3 Palestinians killed in clashes; mayor of Gaza City resigns

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops killed two Palestinians in a violent clash in the occupied West Bank Saturday and another died of wounds suffered earlier. The Israeli-appointed mayor of Gaza City offered his resignation in response to a nationalist call for Arab municipal councils to quit.

The Israeli army said nine other Palestinians were wounded by gunfire in clashes on the West Bank.

Arab reporters in the Gaza Strip said troops continued a pattern of overnight arrests in an apparent attempt to choke off demonstrations planned for Palestinian Land Day on March 30.

The reporters said there were arrests in the Jabalia, Nuseirat and Breij refugee camps, and witnesses quoted by news agencies said several busloads of detainees arrived overnight at a Gaza Strip detention centre, although it was unclear if they were newly arrested or prisoners transferred from elsewhere.

The army said villagers in Kafr Thulth, 45 kilometres northwest

of Jerusalem erected roadblocks, burned tyres and surrounded an army force, attacking it with metal bars, rocks and bottles.

It said troops fired at the crowd, killing two and wounding seven.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) identified the dead as 19-year-old Majed Hussein Deeb and Hawad Qassem Ibrahim, 30. Officials at Nabulsi Al Itihad hospital said Ayed Salah, 21, of nearby Zawata village, died at 4 a.m. of gunshot wounds to his spinal cord and liver suffered Friday.

Palestinian sources quoted by Reuters and the AP said Gaza Mayor Hanzza Turkamni resigned Thursday in response to calls from the Underground Leadership of the Uprising.

Israeli military censors delayed

(Continued on page 5)

Shultz meets PNC members, plans to visit Mideast next week

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met Saturday with two members of the Palestine National Council (PNC). The State Department said Shultz would visit the Middle East next week to again push the new U.S. peace initiative.

Professors Edward Said of Columbia University and Ibrahim Abu Lughud met for more than an hour with Shultz at his invitation.

"We conveyed to Secretary Shultz the urgent need to lift Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza as a preparatory step on the road to achieving peaceful coexistence between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews," Said said after the meeting. The professor earlier said he had been in touch with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat about the session with Shultz.

The secretary, whose last Mideast peace-seeking trip was a month ago, has been trying to arrange negotiations that would lead to a settlement between Israel and the Palestinians.

Fateh, Abu Nidal group clash in 'Ain Al Hilweh

'AIN AL HILWEH, Lebanon (R) — Fighters loyal to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat exchanged machinegun fire with radicals led by Abu Nidal in a refugee camp in southern Lebanon Saturday, Palestinian sources said.

They said a woman and two fighters died in the skirmishes, sparked when a member of Arafat's Fateh group stopped a vehicle of Abu Nidal's FRC Revolutionary Council (FRC) at a checkpoint in 'Ain Al Hilweh camp.

Five people have now been killed in two days of clashes. Residents of the camp, where some 80,000 Palestinians live in makeshift homes, said it was the worst inter-Palestinian fighting in the area for several years.

Fighters in green military fatigues, brandishing Kalashnikov rifles and rocket launchers, fanned out through the camp's narrow alleys and breeze-block homes.

But the fighting had ended by midday as patrols made up of different Palestinian factions manned key points in the camp. Residents said tension remained high.

Trouble began Friday when gunmen tried to kill Jamal Sleiman, a former official of the mainstream Fateh group. The sources said Sleiman survived the hail of bullets but his brother

The spokesman said Shultz had made the decision after conferring Friday evening with Philip Habib, a special U.S. envoy who returned to Washington from the Middle East Thursday after talks with leaders in the region.

Said said he and Abu Lughud were interested in "an exchange of views" with Shultz. He said they wanted to know more about the U.S. proposal for Arab-Israeli negotiations.

"I am not a diplomat," Said said before Saturday's meeting. "We're going to tell him about the Palestinians' view of the whole matter."

Asked if the PLO should participate in the negotiations, the Columbia professor replied with hesitation: "Absolutely."

Israel told the United States it took a dim view of Shultz's plans for Saturday's meeting. For its part, Washington warned Israel against a pre-emptive strike against missiles brought from China by Saudi Arabia.

Arafat reiterates stand

Arafat said Saturday that the PLO rejects any U.S. peace initiative that does not recognise it as the sole representative of the Palestinian people or the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Arafat told a news conference that the PLO rejects the Shultz proposals for an international conference next month to pave the way for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute that envisaged limited "self-rule" for

(Continued on page 5)



King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz

S. Arabia thanks Jordan for pledge of support

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received a message from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz thanking him for the message of support for Saudi Arabia in the face of Israeli threats against new intermediate-range missiles acquired by Saudi Arabia.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted King Fahd as saying in the message that he deeply appreciates Jordan's support, "which embodies true genuine solidarity and cohesion among Arabs."

"Such solidarity and cohesion, with God's will, are bound to thwart enemy plots and end injustice and provide for the Arab Nation all means of power and victory over its enemies," Petra quoted King Fahd as saying.

King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to King Fahd voicing Jordan's firm stand in support of Saudi Arabia in the face of Israeli threats and said any aggression on Saudi Arabia would be considered as an aggression on Jordan.

The King's expression of support followed Israeli warnings to Saudi Arabia against deploying the Chinese-made missiles.

Iraq declares support

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq Saturday declared support for Saudi Arabia against Israeli threats. Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council said: "The Zionist regime should know perfectly well that any aggression against any Arab country is an aggression against the whole Arab Nation."

A statement, released at the end of a RCC meeting under President Saddam Hussein, said: "There are mutual commitments among the Arab countries under the Joint Defence Pact and commitments dictated by the principles of nationality and common destiny."

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad made a similar pledge in Kuwait: "The GCC charter is quite clear in this respect. It considers any aggression on any member state an aggression on all GCC states," (see page 5).

The Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council is an economic and security alliance that also groups Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

national treaties.

Noorani, briefing reporters, said the Soviet Union was not prepared to stop or suspend aid to Kabul.

He said: "A Soviet willingness to assume equal and reciprocal obligations as a guarantor can clinch the Geneva agreements and a political settlement of the Afghan problem."

Noorani said Pakistan has told U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez that texts of the four instruments of an agreement are complete and that Pakistan does not seek any changes.

He noted that the issue of a transitional government appeared to have been resolved following last week's meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Pakistan has insisted during the talks that a broad-based transitional government would be needed in Afghanistan to ensure peace in the country following the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

King, Queen return home

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Saturday after a four-day state visit to Pakistan and a short visit to the Sultanate of Oman on their way back.

The King discussed with Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and senior Pakistani officials issues of mutual concern and the latest developments in the Middle East. They also reviewed "issues of concern to the Islamic World and challenges facing the Islamic Nation, at the forefront of which are Israel's oppressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the Iran-Iraq war and the need to intensify efforts to end the conflict that has drained the resources of both Muslim countries," the Jordan News Agency.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are received by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Saturday at Amman Airport (Petra photo)

Petra said. The King and Zia also reviewed bilateral relations.

In Oman, the King held talks with Sultan Qaboos bin Sai'd on current Arab issues and bilateral relations. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai attended the talks.

Their Majesties were seen off upon departure from Muscat by Sultan Qaboos and senior Omani officials and were received upon arrival home by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, members of the royal family and senior officials.

Masri briefs EC on OIC talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Saturday briefed ambassadors of European Community (EC) accredited to Jordan on the outcome of the 17th conference of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers which concluded Friday.

Masri, chairman of the conference, explained in particular the conference's resolutions relating to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The briefing took place at a special meeting Masri held in his office with the ambassadors.

Delegates leave

Meanwhile, several heads of delegations which took part in the OIC meeting left for home Saturday. Several delegations left Amman Friday and those leaving Saturday included the foreign ministers of Sierra Leone, Libya, Chad, Mauritania, Bangladesh, Cameroun, Senegal and Uganda.

Crown Prince, foreign minister evaluate OIC conference

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday called at the Foreign Ministry and met with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabih Al Nimr, a number of ambassadors and senior officials who took part in the preparations, arrangements and supervision of the 17th conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers which ended here Friday.

The Crown Prince and Masri made an evaluation of the conference.

Prince Hassan thanked the foreign minister and the ministry staff for their performance and successful preparations which contributed to the smooth and easy running of the conference and its success.

his government for failing to grant autonomy to Muslims in the southern Philippines.

The meeting adopted a resolution expressing "deep regret over

(Continued on page 5)

Iraqis rocket Tehran; ground battle continues for mountains

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq fired two long-range missiles into Tehran Saturday and vowed to "level" Iranian cities as the two Gulf war foes battled for mastery of the Kurdish mountains, just east of key Iraqi oilfields.

President Saddam Hussein summoned Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) to a meeting that declared Baghdad was resolved to fight "with all available weapons" until Tehran agrees to a settlement of the 7½-year-old war.

The RCC statement acknowledged that Iraq lost some territory to the Iranians.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) monitored in Nicosia, said one Al Hussein missile was launched at 2 p.m. (1100 GMT) and the second a minute later.

Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) also monitored in Nicosia, said seven

civilians were killed and a number of others were wounded in the attack.

The Iraqi agency quoted an unidentified military spokesman as saying: "The only reply we have to those who refuse peace and attack our cities and borders is death and destruction. We are going to... level their cities."

Iraq has fired 112 long-range missiles into Tehran and Qom, seat of Iran's religious hierarchy, in the unprecedented month-old inter-city missile duels that have killed hundreds of civilians.

Tehran says it fired 43 such projectiles into Baghdad, a city of five million, and dozens into other Iraqi cities since Feb. 29.

Tehran Radio reported that Iraqi warplanes bombed residential sections of the western city of Ilam Saturday. There was no immediate word of casualties.

The Iranian agency said Ira-

nian fighter-bombers attacked troop concentrations in northern Iraq, where Iranian Revolutionary Guards were reported fighting Iraqi troops in the Kurdish mountains just east of Iraq's vital Kirkuk oilfields.

It said other Iranian warplanes "heavily bombed" Iraqi troop concentrations and defence lines around the strategic southern port of Basra.

It was the third straight day the Iranians have hit that sector. An estimated 250,000 troops have been massed east of Basra for weeks for a long-expected offensive.

Baghdad Radio reported three Iranian warplanes were shot down as they tried to bomb targets in the embattled Kurdistan province on Saturday. All three were U.S.-built F-5s, it said.

IRNA reported a Soviet-built Iraqi Sukhoi SU-22 was downed Saturday.

Iranian communiques charged that Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on three towns "overrun" by the invaders.

The United Nations has said it will send a team of experts to investigate the alleged Iraqi use of chemical weapons, outlawed under a 1925 Geneva agreement. "Iraq cannot remain idle toward the Iranian aggression," said the Revolutionary Command Council's statement, carried by DNA.

"Iraq has the determination and power to use all available weapons to crush the invaders," it said.

It recalled that Iran had ignored all U.N. ceasefire calls, including the last one, Security Council Resolution 598.

"Eight months after that resolution, we find Iran invading our country, occupying an Iraqi town and other Iraqi territory," it said, conceding loss of territory to Iran.

"It is neither justified normissible that only one side asked to abide by decisions, while the other, it added,

U.N. team briefed by Ureikat, Dudin

170 Arabs killed, 5,000 injured by Israelis during uprising

AMMAN (Petra and J.T.) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat said Saturday that 170 Arab citizens have been killed and 5,000 others wounded during the current Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

He said more than 9,000 others have been detained or arrested and are now in Israeli jails.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with a 10-member fact-finding mission representing the United Nations Information Office in New York, whose members are currently on a tour of the Middle East.

"The uprising represents a genuine expression of the Palestinian people's rejection of occupation, and came as a strong reaction to Israel's racist policies," he said.

The minister told the mission members about Israel's demolition of Arab homes, building of settlements on Arab land and the breaking of the limbs of the youth taking part in the anti-Israeli protests.

"Israel has so far seized 50 per cent of the total area of the West Bank and nearly 43 per cent of the occupied Gaza Strip since 1967, and 90 per cent of the confiscated land belongs to Arab individuals and farmers," the minister said.

He said: "As a result of this practice agricultural land shrunk by half which eventually resulted in a decline in agricultural production and the volume of manpower employed on the land."

"This reflects negatively on the general situation in the occupied Arab region where the main source of income is agriculture."

the minister noted.

Ureikat said Israel has so far built 337 settlements on the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Israel's policy of colonisation aims to uproot Arabs from their homeland.

"In the course of implementing its colonisation projects Israel is seizing Arab water resources and preventing the Arab farmers from exploiting their land," the minister said.

Referring to the Arab workers the minister said that since 1978 the United Nations has been sending fact-finding missions to examine the conditions of Arab workers, "and their reports are full of details about Israel's human rights violations against the workers and their unions."

The 1987 figures he said reveal that 1,700 Arab workers were employed on Israeli economic projects but are not treated on equal footing with the Israeli workers.

Also Saturday, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin met with the mission which is on a visit to Jordan to examine Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territory.

Dudin told the mission members about Israel's collective punishment measures in the occupied Arab lands and Israel's pressures on the Arab residents to force them to abandon their homes.



Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat briefs the U.N. delegation team currently visiting Jordan. (below) The U.N. delegation also meet Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin (Petra photos)



He also spoke on Israel's confiscation of Arab land for building settlements.

The minister outlined to the members of the mission the Jordanian government's measures to help the displaced people on the Eastern Bank in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), and his ministry's continued assistance to the Arab institutions in the West Bank, especially in the health, educational, agricultural and social fields.



MASRI PRAISES ENVOY: Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri presents the outgoing Austrian Ambassador Arnold Moebius, with a token gift, at a luncheon hosted by the minister, on the occasion of the termination of Moebius' mandate as ambassador. Masri made a speech praising

Moebius' efforts to bolster Jordanian-Austrian relations. The ambassador voiced his appreciation of the Jordanian officials for the different services offered to him and his embassy staff during his mandate as ambassador, which, he said, facilitated his mission in Jordan (Petra photo)



Tareq Al Tal

Tal reelected president of agricultural engineers

AMMAN — Jordanian Agricultural Association Friday elected Tareq Al Tal as president and Isam Naser as vice president.

Committee to discuss expatriates conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Jordanian Committee for the fourth Jordanian Expatriates Conference holds meeting in Amman Sunday under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat.

Preparations for the coming conference which will be held here in July, the working papers to be discussed by the participants, and the subjects to be raised at the coming conference, will be taken up by the committee members.

The committee comprises 19 members representing government ministries and the private sector.

On the eve of the meeting the Ministry of Labour and Social Development's Expatriates Department Director Azmi Al Muhaseb said that the committee decisions will be implemented immediately in order to make the coming conference achieve its success and offer a service to the country and the expatriates.

Princess Alia, Hmoud discuss arrangements for horse clinic

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, president of the Royal Jordanian Horse Breeders Society, Saturday visited the Ministry of Agriculture and discussed with Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Hmoud arrangements for opening the clinic for horses at the historical city of Petra.

The clinic has been established by the London-based Brooke Hospital for Animals, a British charity.

Princess Alia also reviewed arrangements for organising an exhibition of Arabian horses which will be held at the Royal stables on Aug. 31 with the participation of a number of Arab countries.

Seminar discusses dangers of asbestos to public health

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day seminar, on dangers of asbestos to the public health and the environment, opened in Amman Saturday.

Participants will review working papers which focus on the proper measures for avoiding dangers from asbestos and sound measures for its use.

The seminar which was organised by the Vocational Training Corporation's Institute of Occupational Health, in cooperation with the Asbestos Institute in Canada, was addressed by Social Security Corporation (SSC) Director General Mahdi Al Farhan, who underlined the importance of the meeting "because asbestos is used in various industries and construction."

"Jordan is keen on taking measures to provide safety for its workers and has enacted legislations, and created institutions, to take proper care of workers' health," Farhan said.

Farhan outlined the SSC law which provides protection to the thousands of workers in Jordan's social, cultural and economic institutions.

The institute Director Abdul Rahim Abdul Jaber delivered a speech outlining the institute's different programmes and activities. He thanked ambassador to Jordan for his generous technical and financial support for the institute and its operations.

Municipality completes hall, offices at Abdali Bus Terminal

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality announced Saturday that it completed work on a reception hall for passengers and the construction of 12 offices at the Abdali Bus Terminal in Amman.

The Traffic Committee for Amman has recently decided to move all offices of taxis and buses, operating between Amman and other areas, to the Abdali terminal.

Three dozens of land were assigned for these offices and the reception hall.

Greek Church cancels Easter celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greek Orthodox Church in Amman announced Saturday that all celebrations, processions and public festivals to mark Easter will be cancelled this year.

Easter falls on April 10 on the Eastern Calendar and it is celebrated by all the Christian communities in the East Bank.

The church spokesman said that the cancellation was made in view of the situation in the occupied Arab territories and in solidarity with the Arab people in their uprising against the Israeli rule.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BROILER CHICKEN: Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Dr. Salem Al Lawzi Saturday discussed with the director general of the Arab Company for the Development of Animal Wealth Abdullah Thanyan, final arrangements of the opening ceremony of a project for the production of broiler chicken in Jordan. The opening ceremony will take place Tuesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

PRUNING OF TREES: An agricultural seminar opened at Kufurjeh Saturday to orient local farmers on pruning of olive and vine trees. The participants will be touring fields and watching pruning of fruit trees carried out by agricultural engineers.

ABU RAGHEB REELECTED: The Jordanian Contractors Association has elected Ali Abu Ragheb to serve as the association's president for the next four years and Khalil Haddadin to act as vice-president. The association at its general assembly meeting Friday also elected the following as members of the association board: Hani Nasser, Daoud Al Zir, Wael Touqan, Nayef Abu Obaid, Aref Tarawneh, Mohammad Huweid, Mohammad Jumaa and Mohammad Asaad.

DELEGATES VISIT JERASH: Delegations of Nepal and Benin to the 17th conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers, which ended here Friday, visited Al Rabadhi citadel in Ajloun and the historical city of Jerash Saturday.

FRENCH ARCHITECTURE: An exhibition about French architecture was opened Saturday at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering and Technology in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre in Amman. On display, during the four-day exhibition, are paintings and drawings highlighting the main feature of Paris city and the engineering projects in France.

BOOK EXHIBITION: Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST) President Kamel Ajlouni Saturday opened a week-long book exhibition and a charity bazaar at the Irbid Community College for Girls.

LOST WOMAN FOUND: An Australian woman tourist in Petra who had lost her way by climbing high rocky hills has been rescued by an army helicopter and a team from the Civil Defence Department. The woman had gone out alone to climb a steep hill in the vicinity of Petra and failed to come back by Saturday morning which prompted the search which was coordinated with the Ministry of Tourism.

COURSE ON INOCULATION: Thirty three doctors, working for the departments of health in Irbid and Ramtha, are attending a course on inoculation against diarrhoea, which opened in Irbid Saturday. The doctors, who work in health centres in the two regions, will be oriented on dealing with all types of diarrhoea cases during the three-day course.

NEW CENTRE IN MA'AN: The Health Ministry has created a new centre to give mother and child services and laboratory tests at Huseinih in the Ma'an Governorate. Health Department Director Sami Abdul Rahman said that he inspected the centre, which started offering services to the public. According to Abdul Rahman his department is conducting a tuberculosis screening campaign in Ma'an Governorate which will end Tuesday.

COURSE FOR MOTHERS: Zarqa Governor Eid Qatameh Saturday opened a training course for mothers on means of helping their handicapped children to learn, to read and write and to adapt to the environment.

ABBADI REVIEWS PROJECTS: A meeting was held here Saturday under the chairmanship of Ma'raq Governor Fayez Abbadi to review development projects carried out by the public sector in Ma'raq Governorate last year. Fayez said that nearly JD 19 million were spent on these projects. Meanwhile the governor announced that an election for the Ma'raq Chamber of Commerce will be held on April 14 and that preparations are underway for the event.

COURSE ON SAFETY: The Labour Ministry's Labour Institute Saturday opened a training course for Jordanian workers employed in the public and private sectors. 35 workers are attending the 10-day course during which they will hear lectures on precautionary and safety measures at various work centres. The participants will tour a number of industrial companies as part of the course.

STATISTICS: The board of trustees of the Baghdad-based Arab Institute for statistical training and researches will start its meetings in Amman Monday. Directors of statistical departments in Arab countries as well as experts from Arab and international statistical organisations will take part in the three-day meetings.

CHARITY BAZAAR: A week-long charity bazaar opened at Qasr near Karak to raise funds for supporting the activities of charitable societies. The six-day bazaar displays children's clothes, books, artificial flowers, ornaments and educational aids.

TWIN CITY AGREEMENT: A delegation from Moroccan city of Rabat is due in Amman on April 8 for signing a twin city agreement with Greater Amman Municipality. An Egyptian delegation is also due in Amman at the end of April to sign a cooperation agreement and an executive programme with the municipality.

TRANSPORT STRATEGY: Experts on strategy of transport in the Arab World Tuesday start their three-day meetings in Tunis to work out a transport strategy.

SIRENS IN IRBID: The Civil Defence Department will test the sirens in Irbid at 10:30 Monday.

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15:30 Koran
15:35 Programme Review
15:45 Cartoons
16:05 Denis the Menace
16:20 Children's programmes
17:30 Isaura
18:30 Soccer (Italy)
19:00 Local agricultural programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme on Arabic
22:30 T.V. Magazine (local)
23:00 T.V. Magazine (Jordan)
23:10 T.V. Magazine contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Rue Carnot
18:30 L'Ecole des Fous
19:00 News in French
19:15 International Circus Festival
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 My Husband and I
21:10 Casteau Adventure (documentary)
22:00 News in English
22:30 Secret Army

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07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
11:05 In Concert
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Talk
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Science Report
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instruments
16:35 Old Favourites
17:00 Listeners' Choice
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Rhythm and Blues
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show continued
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show continued
23:00 News Summary
23:57 News Headline
24:00 Close Down

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639, 720, 1323 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Seven Ages of Man 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial Review 07:00 World News 07:05 Twenty-Fours Hours: News Summary 07:50 The Wonderful Cross 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Jazz for the Asking 09:00 World News 09:20 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 From Our Own Correspondent 09:45 Book Choice 09:50 Waveguide 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Pleasures Yours 11:00 World News 11:05 The Sunday Papers 11:15 Science in Action 11:45 Education Today 12:00 News Summary: Short Story 12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News 13:05 News About Britain 13:15 The Wonderful Cross 13:30 Play of the Week: Remembrance 14:00 News Summary followed by Play of the Week: From the Lion Park 15:00 World News 15:05 Twenty-Fours Hours: News Summary 15:30 Sports Roundup 15:45 The Saudi Jones Request Show 16:00 News Summary 16:30 Yes Minister 17:00 Radio News 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Why Should This Happen to Me? 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:05 Reflections 19:15 Jazz for the Asking 19:45 Sports Roundup 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 My World 21:00 News Summary: Classical Record Review 21:15 The Kingfisher — Part 1 22:00 World News 22:05 Twenty-Fours Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sunday Half Hour 23:00 News Summary: Short Story 23:15 Pleasures Yours 24:00 World News 00:05 Cannery Row 00:25 Book Choice 00:30 Financial Review 00:45 Reflections 00:45 Sports Roundup 01:00 World News 01:05 Commentary 01:15 Letter from America 01:30 On the Border

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9665, 1174, 11925 and 13210 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE

06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 News Horizons 10:00 Studio One 10:40 News 10:50 Encounter 10:50 Special English News & Features 10:50 News 10:55 Critic's Choice 10:55 Issues in the News 20:00 News 20:05 News & Features 20:30 Special English News & Features 21:00 News 21:10 Sunday Report 21:30 Music, USA Standards 22:00 News 22:10 The Concert Hall 22:55 Editorial 23:00 News 23:10 News Horizons 23:30 Studio One

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

★ Egyptian Book Exhibition at the Professional Association Union.

★ An art exhibition by Olivia Pallard at Alia Art Gallery (until March 28).

★ Book exhibition at the Comprehensive Commercial Centre (Tower Building), Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle (permanent).

★ General book exhibition at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmeisani.

★ Art exhibition by Samia Zarour at the Jordan National Museum of Fine Arts (until end of March).

★ Art exhibition by Mohammad Bouls and Mounira Al Tounsi at the Housing Bank Gallery (runs through April 19).

★ An exhibition of paintings by British artist David Hockney at the British Council. There is also a showing of video film entitled "Hockney" during the exhibition (until March 27).

★ First School Arts Exhibition at Ahmad Touqan School. Open during school hours until June 1988.

★ Exhibition for the Spanish artist Maria Dolores Travesedo at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until March 30).

★ From Gutenberg to Electronics Dar el Tili (until 11 April) Goethe Institute.

★ British illustration from Caxton to Chloé (runs through April 31) at British Council.

★ An exhibition about French architecture at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Jordan (until March 29).

JAZZ PERFORMANCES

★ The Kevin Eubanks Trio are visiting Jordan March 23 through March 29. The trio, a guitarist, bassist and drummer, perform an energised brand of contemporary jazz. For more details on the trio's performances, please call the American Centre.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club

Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 623583.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.

Terrassante Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Lubdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623366.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 623583, chaplain's residence tel. 601359.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 773261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church (inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.

Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. tel. 822605, Rev. Veli.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815-817, 821-264.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 533051, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ)

FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

03:00 Madrid (add.) (RJ)

09:15 Agaba (RJ)

09:30 Kuwait (RJ)

09:40 Jeddah (RJ)

09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:45 Cairo (RJ)

17:00 London (RJ)

17:45 Helsinki, Agaba (RJ)

17:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:00 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)

18:05 Frankfurt (RJ)

18:15 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)

19:15 Madrid, Rome (RJ)

19:45 Vienna (add.) (RJ)

23:55 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

08:30 Berlin (IF)

09:35 Cairo (MS)

10:40 Damascus (AZ)

11:45 Kuwait (LN)

12:30 Sharjah, Doha (GF)

13:40 Kuwait (KU)

15:00 Jeddah (SV)

15:30 Baghdad (IA)

16:35 Athens (OA)

18:25 Frankfurt (LF)

19:15 Beirut (ME)

21:05 Cairo (MS)

23:55 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ)

FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

03:00 Helsinki (add.) (RJ)

04:00 Tunis, Madrid (add.) (RJ)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)

07:25 Frankfurt (add.) (RJ)

10:45 Vienna (add.) (RJ)

11:00 Tunis, New York (RJ)

12:30 Vienna, Casablanca (RJ)

12:35 Kuwait (RJ)

19:40 Doha (RJ)

19:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

19:50 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

19:55 Baghdad (RJ)

20:00 Larnaca (RJ)

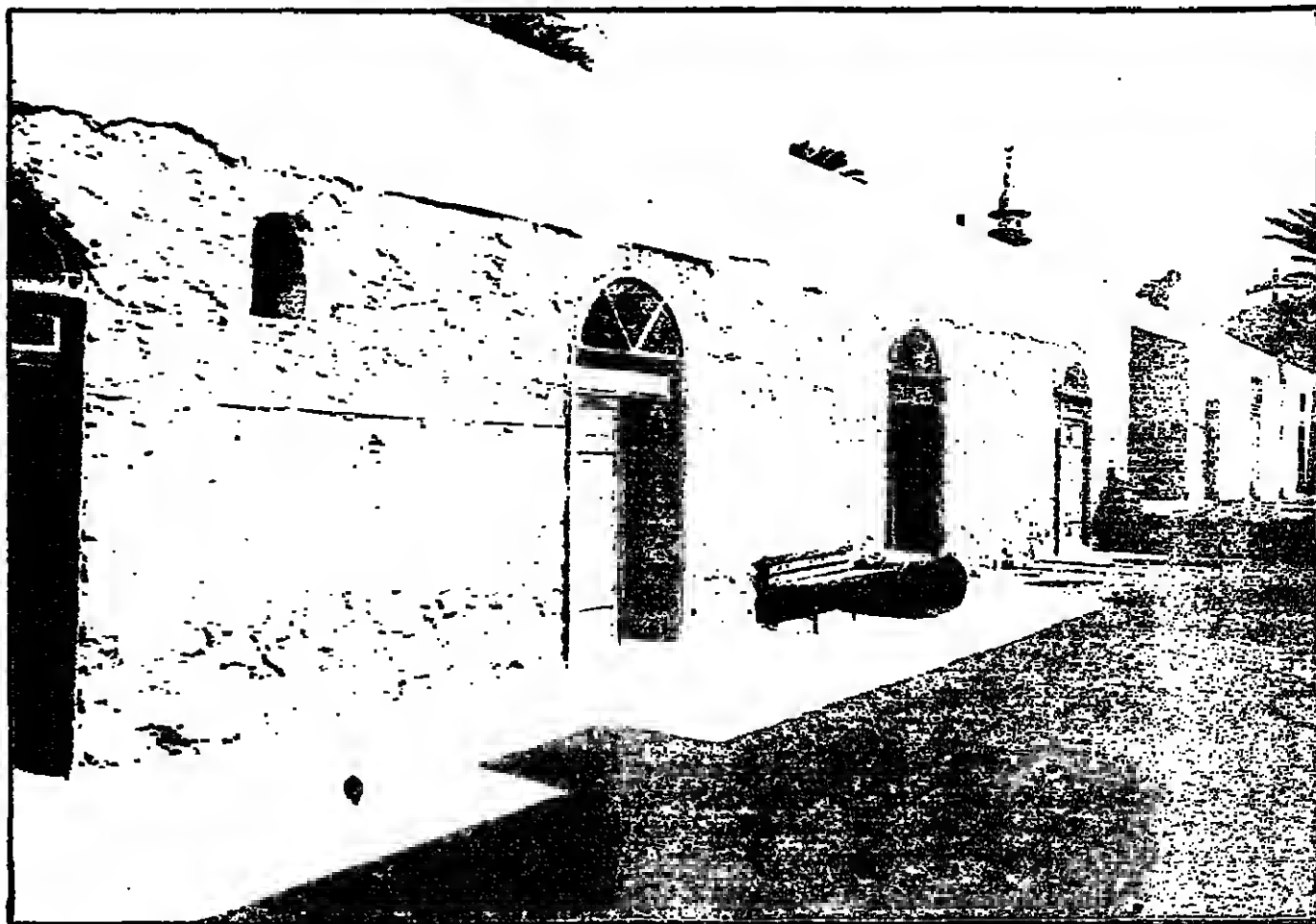
20:05 Jeddah, Sana'a (RJ)

20:10 Cairo (RJ)

20:15 Damascus (RJ)



(left) Village houses of early 20th century to be renovated for the Ministry of Tourism, and (right) interior courtyard walls after the removal of concrete plaster.



Meg Abu Hamdan reviews Ammar Khammash's formidable task of preserving Jordan's dying village architecture (Photos by Khammash)

Salvaging the remnants of a humane architecture

AMMAN — The preservation and restoration of Jordan's main sites of antiquity has always been an issue of some concern. Over the years several projects have been started to try and prevent further damage being incurred from whatever source.

However, and until very recently, this has not been the case with more modern structures, the modest, traditionally built rural and urban houses that date back to around the turn of the century and later. Many of these buildings, which document an important period in the establishment of the country in its modern form are being increasingly abandoned, were left to rot and many were even pulled down.

One of the few people who are attempting to save some of the better examples of architecture from this period is Ammar Khammash who over the last year has completed one restoration project and begun three others in various parts of the country. Khammash's first project was to renovate an old courtyard house, the Malkawi house in Umm Qais, with the idea of turning it into an archaeological centre for the north of the country.

The idea was originated by the director of the German Institute of Archaeology, Dr. Thomas Weber who with Khammash made a proposal and an estimate for the project. This was taken up by the German Ambassador to Jordan, Herwig Bartels. As a result the German Foreign Ministry not only approved the project but agreed to finance it entirely. The philosophy behind the proposal being that it is relatively cheap to renovate traditional architecture compared to the price of building a new structure. An added advantage is that by restoration, one is also preserving the past.

The total cost of the scheme was around JD 10,000 which Khammash maintains went mostly to the local inhabitants of Umm Qais for their work on the project. "In all these schemes," Khammash told the Jordan Times, "we pay attention to the local economy and try to use the entire budget in the area. Thus I use, wherever possible, local labour and materials and labour intensive techniques. For example, if I give a man with a

bulldozer JD 40 to do the work, JD 30 would probably go on spare parts that are manufactured elsewhere. If instead I pay local labourers to do the work, JD 1 will go towards buying them a new spade once a year, the rest will go on food for them and their families.

"Also by doing this I prevent to a greater extent the flow of money back to urban areas which is usually the case as for example when a government school is built in a village. The contractor is often from Amman and thus most of the money allocated for the construction of the school will return back to the city."

Involving villagers

Khammash feels that if the villagers themselves are involved with the project then they will feel it is theirs, a part of them, not an alien structure that arrived, unasked for, unwanted. To reinforce this, Khammash arrives at the site with an open mind to all local suggestions and ideas. By dealing directly with the people and by making on the spot dialogue with the workers, Khammash builds up the confidence of the local people and encourages them to say how they would like things to be.

"I don't view architecture as an isolated task but one that is interconnected with all the physical and social aspects of the site. This is especially relevant to renovation projects because the architect is intruding into something that was already there. In the past old buildings were automatically demolished, the idea being you had to get rid of what you had and then think of an alternative. With restoration one realises there is already an alternative and you go from there."

This respect for what is already in existence has also spread to the field of archaeology. In the past, if ancient ruins were suspected of existing below more recent structures these were pulled down in order for the antiquities to be excavated. This was nearly the fate of the Malkawi house which sits on a tell, owned by the department of Antiquities, which many archaeologists presumed to

be the site of a Roman citadel.

"It was then discovered that the tell was actually a natural formation, the bedrock being exposed in the courtyard of the house," Khammash explained. "This meant that not many layers would be found beneath the house and so it was decided that it was better to keep the turn of the century structure rather than pull it down and excavate as had been the initial plan. This is an example of an interesting new trend in archaeology. Archaeologists now wish to maintain a continuous line from antiquity to the present, it is as if they realise it is better to keep the whole book, rather than destroy all the pages written after the part they are interested in."

Although Khammash likes to make his restorations as faithful as possible to the original, he feels it must be done in such a way so as not to make the building a burden to the community by needing a lot of maintenance and care.

"The hectic annual maintenance of traditionally built houses is one of the reasons these buildings are often abandoned," Khammash maintains. "So in order to keep maintenance to a minimum, I use, wherever possible, modern building techniques, like for example concrete in places where it will not show. I also try to set standards with these buildings showing how features like water tanks, solar panels and electric lines can all be hidden by such methods as sunken roofs and underground cabling."

In April, work will begin on a second restoration project that Khammash is carrying out also in Umm Qais. This new project is also completely funded by the German Foreign Ministry. Khammash will renovate the Fadi Al Rusan house which when completed will function as a small museum housing the larger and heavier archaeological finds in the area. The two storey house with its black basalt tiled courtyard and cross vaulting, was originally the home of the governor of the area during the Ottoman period. With its breathtaking view over Lake Tiberias and the Golan Heights it is as Khammash says "a beautiful house on a beautiful site."

In the meantime Khammash continues working on his three other projects. The construction of an ethnographic museum from old stones inside one of the modern courtyards of the Yarmuk University, the restoration of a group of houses in Makawir, near Madaba for the Ministry of Tourism and Save the Children Fund and the restoration of the old Headquarters of Sherif Hussein in Aqaba.

Making a modern museum from old stones collected from destroyed walls and houses in the surrounding area may not at first seem logical but as Khammash says this is actually cheaper than building a structure in newly cut stones. Built inside an already existing courtyard at the Institute of Anthropology and Archaeology at Yarmuk University, this extension to the main museum, with its traditionally constructed walls and cross vaulting will be completed by the end of May.

"With the completion of the courtyard, the museum at Yarmuk will be the most comprehensive and complete museum in Jordan," Khammash said. "The collection, which starts with prehistoric objects and goes chronologically through to the present day, links the past to the present. Unlike other museums which stop at the Mamluks and leave you wondering how did we get from there to here, this museum will include objects from the last couple of centuries enabling people who come in from the villages to find something they can relate to which will help them go smoothly back into the past from their own perspective."

The reconstructed courtyard will house the ethnographic part of the museum, the display including a reconstruction of a village house, all the traditional methods of food preparation, agricultural implements and much else besides. Accompanied by detailed texts the museums will become an educational tool which hopefully will help the students to achieve a greater awareness.

"Normally, museums in this part of the world are dead ends. There is a feeling about them that a duty has been done and there it finishes," Khammash said. "Hopefully things will change

with this museum because the students can both study in the adjoining reading rooms as well as relax in the courtyard and drink tea and coffee from Damascene table and because there will be an on-going series of contemporary exhibits that highlight aspects of pollution, the use of urban space etc., it will continue to be an active, vibrant and much used space."

For several years now the Save the Children Fund in Jordan, under the directorship of Rebecca Salti, has been running a project that has been stimulating the growth of the local manufacture in the Madaba area of the traditional hand-woven rugs. After many successful exhibitions both here and abroad, the Fund realised they needed a shop in the area to sell the rugs which are made mostly by women in rural communities. The site of Makawir was chosen after Salti and Khammash made a proposal to rent or buy an old house in the village for the purpose. The Ministry of Tourism took up the project with the intention of having a testhouse on this famous religious site where it is said John the Baptist was beheaded.

"In the past the Ministry of Tourism always built new resthouses, but now there is a new policy to make them from old houses that have been renovated," Khammash said. "This not only cuts the price to one third of what it would cost to build a new structure but also prevents an alien object that could shock the environment visually."

The entire project of resthouse and shop now consists of eight 1920's rubble stone houses which randomly step down the hill. Again little is being done to alter the houses visually. Electricity and water are being piped in invisibly, while new concrete roofs, vital for maintenance and for preventing any further deterioration to the properties, are

being cast on top of the bamboo ceilings so that on entering no-one would see a difference.

The problems that Khammash faced in the restoration of the Sherif Hussein Bin Ali Headquarters in Aqaba were of a very different nature. The house had been used for some period in its history as a motel and the water connections had leaked causing a lot of settlement and cracking. Fortunately the main structure remained sound so Khammash stripped the building down to the bone, carting away truckloads of concrete and plaster.

"Now it is all cleaned we are experimenting with different kinds of plaster, both the traditional lime plasters and modern ones in order to see which is most resilient to the salt water and humidity," Khammash said. "Basically the renovation will be very simple as all that is needed is a neutral environment to house the museum exhibits, and this will be in keeping with the building

which was originally very functional."

Again old building stones will be used and the courtyard will be tiled with ochre stones excavated from Ras Al Naqag, near Wadi Rum. Khammash is also making a complete proposal for the building's interior suggesting that the displays should begin with artifacts from the Umayyad and Fatimid periods because it was during this time that the south of the country became more important and go on up to the end of the Ottoman empire and the Arab Revolt. Khammash also proposes that aspects of desert and Red Sea culture should be included while one room should be reserved for travelling exhibits and modern art.

While waiting for his proposal to be approved, Khammash continues renovating, using the old house to investigate the true architectural style of Aqaba.

"Aqaba has become very eclectic in style," Khammash ex-

plained. "There are Amman type houses built in limestone — a building material that is right for Amman as it is the bedrock on which the entire city is built, but it is not right for Aqaba with its dark purple mountains of granite. Also because Aqaba is a coastal resort, people are starting to import Mediterranean style architecture, but again that doesn't fit in the Red Sea Basin."

"Traditional Aqaba architecture, mostly destroyed in the 70's, was constructed in granite. The houses had special vents that allowed passive air conditioning; and their facades, with their more vertical windows had a very individual proportion and composition. This old vocabulary which I am learning from the Sherif Hussein Bin Ali Headquarters project can also be studied from old photographs of the town and this should be done before Aqaba becomes a feast of architectural alternatives."



Renovation works at Umm Qais



One of Makawir houses with the archaeological site of Herod's palace in the background.



Khammash exhibits in Bonn

BONN — A photo exhibition depicting architectural designs in Jordanian villages was opened in Bonn on Feb. 23. The photographs which depict old and modern buildings, and styles were taken by Jordanian artist Ammar Khammash. Jordan's Ambassador to West Germany Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf opened the exhibition. Representatives of the West German government and a large audience representing Arab and foreign information media per-

sonalities and the diplomatic missions in Bonn attended the opening of the exhibition.

Photo (above) shows Khammash (on the left), Sharif Fawwaz (second from left) and Mr. Nayef Al Mutlaq, Jordanian embassy attaché (second from right) and other guests during the opening of the exhibition (INP photo)

Jordan Times

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Output, not input, is the measure

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

MOST officials in the public sector, and some managers in the private sector believe that excessive spending is in itself an achievement worth being proud of. The public opinion has been conditioned over the years to welcome announcements about huge allocations of public funds for various purposes. That is how we grew accustomed to measure the importance of projects or the effectiveness of management by the volume of allocations that managers were able to secure, or by the cost of projects they propose.

Following a visit made by the minister of transport and communications to the Public Transport Corporation, the director general of the corporation used the occasion to tell the press that the corporation intended to renew and modernise its fleet of buses serving at a cost of JD 3.5 million plus JD 1.2 million for the building of new workshops for maintenance. The director did not use the opportunity to talk about the size of annual revenues of his corporation, its net profit if any, the growth in numbers of passengers carried during the last year, or any indicator of production or productivity.

The Public Transport Corporation is by no means unique in this respect. It is only part of a trend that measures performance and effectiveness by the volume of expenditure rather than by the results and returns.

Take for instance successive five-year economic and social development plans. We measure the success of a plan by comparing actual capital expenditure to the original allocations. We have been made to believe that we achieved 120 per cent of the plan merely because the costs exceeded the amounts projected by the plan, even if the quantitative performance was less than targeted by the plan. Quantitative evaluation is practically non-existent.

It is useful to understand that capital expenditure is what projects take from the national economy, so the lower they consume the better. What new projects contribute to the national economy is their production, profits, new jobs created, exports generated and imports replaced.

In a lecture recently delivered by the minister of public health at Jordan Science and Technology University, the minister proudly told his audience that the cost of public health in Jordan totalled JD

70 million or 7 per cent of the annual central government budget. He rightly pointed out that that was way above an approved international level of 5 per cent. We, of course, welcomed the news; but our happiness would have been more real had the minister been in a position to tell us that our hospitals and clinics were providing health services at higher than the international standard in both quantity and quality.

Only once I heard an official talking proudly about reducing costs. He was trying to say that he was able to provide better services at lower cost. That was the Mayor of Greater Amman. He adopted the method of maintaining the streets perpetually by treating the damaged spots at a low cost rather than waiting until the streets become valleys and then make a full asphalt cover costing millions of dinars. No wonder the Jordanian capital is now run more efficiently and saving money at the same time.

We are happy to have large projects and huge investments. But we could be happier if the production was good, the service was excellent, the operation was efficient and the return was higher. Efficiency should be measured by results and outputs not by costs and inputs.

Scholars, not terrorists

ISRAELI officialdom across the political spectrum in Israel is concerned at the thought of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz meeting with two leading Palestinian-Americans on the peace process in the Middle East. The two gentlemen happen to be members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), which is causing the Israeli outrage over this American "sacrilegious" move. In crying wolf over this constructive dialogue with some representatives of the Palestinian people, who are waging a determined national uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel is again showing its true colours. If Israel thinks it has the right to dictate to the U.S. whom to talk to and on what, then the American people would have the natural right to tell their traitor ally to mind its own business, and not to keep stepping out of line in dealing with Washington. By daring to even criticise the American government attitude to the Palestinian people, the principal element in the regional peace process, Israel is substantiating the fears that all of us here in this region already know: Israel is becoming too spoiled, and must be called to order.

It so happens that one of the Americans whom Mr. Shultz meets with is Professor Edward Said, a prominent scholar of literature, not terrorism, at Columbia University, an outstanding institution of higher learning in the U.S. Dr. Ibrahim Abu Lughud is a respected professor of political science at Northwestern University. Both are authors of many books and articles in their respective fields, as well as on the politics of the Middle East, with which they are involved by virtue of their roots and their courage to speak out in support of the mutual interests of Americans and Arabs. Both have also distinguished themselves as men of goodwill, reason and compassion. What possible damage can ensue from meeting such a fine sample of the Palestinian leadership? To call them terrorists or to associate them with terrorism is a sign of Israeli panic — indicating that Israel cannot tolerate any view of the Palestinians that is different from its own warped perspective.

We are pleased that Mr. Shultz is going ahead with his plans to meet with Palestinians such as professors Said and Abu Lughud, in spite of the hysterical Israeli objections. We wonder: is this part of a message to Israel? And is it a result of the coordinated Arab stand that confronted Mr. Shultz during his trip here last month?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Positive results

THROUGH its final communique the conference of the Islamic nations expressed total support for the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab territory, and for the convening of an international peace conference to find a just and durable solution for the Middle East problem. This stand which is in line with the Arab Nation's policies serves as a reminder to all those trying to abort the uprising and prevent an international conference, that they cannot achieve any success. The final declaration manifests the fact that the Islamic world realises the heavy responsibility of rescuing Jerusalem and the need for supporting the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom. This Islamic nation's attitude should make America understand that it should exercise a constructive attitude and play a positive role in our region and accept the idea of the international conference which is supported by most nations. The U.S. should heed the Islamic nation's condemnation of its decision to close the Palestine Liberation Organisation's office in New York because such a measure would harm America's credibility in the Islamic world. The Islamic nation's call on Iran to end the war with Iraq was another positive result of the conference and places the Iranian regime face to face with realities in its relations with other Islamic nations. Nearly one thousand million Muslim people are now looking with hope that the conference resolutions will be implemented and serve the Islamic world's goals.

Al Dustour: Islamic support for uprising

THE resolutions of the Organisation of Islamic Conference foreign ministers and statements given by the foreign ministers during the meetings manifested a total Islamic support for Palestinian cause among other issues of concern to the Muslim people around the world. The foreign ministers stressed the need for intensifying efforts to force Israel to succumb to the will of the international community and the need for all Islamic countries to refrain from establishing any form of relationship with Israel. The conference demanded that efforts be pursued for holding an international conference on the Middle East to find a just and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The conference also voiced the Islamic world's total rejection of the continuation of the Gulf conflict and urged Iran to stop fighting and start peace negotiations with Iraq in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. The foreign ministers were keen on discussing questions related to Al Haj and denounced any form of disturbances during the pilgrimage season in the holy places. The resolutions issued by the conference reflect the Islamic world's realisation of the grave situation in the Middle East in view of the continued Israeli occupation and the Gulf conflict.

Sawt Al Shaab: A successful conference

THE conclusion of a successful Islamic conference in Amman marks another success for Jordan in hosting a gathering of Muslim nations for the sake of promoting solidarity among them and fusing Islamic might in confrontation with the common dangers and challenges. Jordan under the leadership of King Hussein has been able, through its credibility on the Arab and international level, to win the confidence of the Arab and Islamic world and come out with a successful outcome from deliberations that lasted five days. The success comes in the wake of another successful conference, that of the Arab summit which convened in Amman last November. Amman has played host to Arab and Islamic leaders in a bid to unify their ranks and join their forces for the common cause. Only one Islamic country opted to walk out from the unified ranks and that is Iran which felt isolated throughout the conference and its actions condemned for its persistence on pursuing the war against Iraq. The Amman conference gave the Palestinian people's uprising a new impetus and helped to further consolidate the Islamic countries support for the Arab states in their endeavour to confront Israel and thwart its conspiracies.

Islamic militants: 'No settlement with Israel'

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

BEIT AL MAA. Occupied West Bank — Islamic militants who reject any negotiated settlement with Israel have played a key role in the rebellion against military rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mosques have often become fortresses used to fight Israeli soldiers, and Muslim preachers use Friday prayers to rally support for continuing the *intifada*, Arabic for uprising.

Underground leaflets and graffiti on the walls are signed by the Islamic Jihad, holy war, by the Islamic resistance and by *bamas*, Arabic for zeal and the name used by the Muslim Brotherhood. *Allahu Akbar* (God is great) has become a common battle cry.

The uncompromising rhetoric of such groups is cited by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as evidence that the uprising is not a political protest, but a war aimed at the destruction of the Jewish state.

"We demand that the Jews be put under our rule," said Sheikh Jamil Salim, a 29-year-old imam, or Muslim prayer leader, in this hillside refugee camp near the West Bank town of Nablus.

"We are taught by the Koran that Jews have no good intentions to establish peace. They are breakers of agreements and covenants," he said.

The relative strengths of fundamentalist Islamic groups, as opposed to non-fundamentalists who identify with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, in difficult to assess.

Clinton Bailey, an Islamic expert at Tel Aviv University who is carrying out a study, said fundamentalists claimed the allegiance of at least 30 per cent of the 850,000 residents of the West Bank, while in Gaza it was nearly 80 per cent of 650,000.

"There is a certain gray area because not all people are one or the other. Many who identify

with the PLO also became religious," said Bailey.

Israeli distrust

His distrust of the Israelis is reflected to a greater or lesser degree by other headline prayer leaders in Friday sermons.

Salim, who offers a reporter a meat-and-milk dish called *shush barak*, lives with 18 members of his extended family in a four-room stone house on a street so narrow a donkey cart cannot pass.

He is critical of Arab states and the PLO for not doing more to help the cause, and contends the revolt is linked to the growth of Islam, especially in the universities.

"For 20 years, there was no such uprising. The fact there is such an uprising now is because of religious groups," he said.

Sitting cross-legged on floor cushions in his diwan, or meeting room, Salim said one reason for the growth of Islam has been the failure of other ideologies. "Socialism, nationalism and materialism, all the -isms, failed," he said.

Salim makes it clear he identifies with the Muslim Brotherhood, founded in Egypt by school teacher Hassan Al Banna in 1929. He does not oppose the diplomatic efforts of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat but stresses a West Bank state will not be enough.

"We are not against getting part of our rights. But we will seek all of our rights. We refuse negotiations and reject an international conference," he said.

Outside his home, the walls bear dozens of slogans. One signed by the Islamic resistance, which is believed to be connected to the Muslim Brothers, declares: "Islam is the solution and the alternative."

In the Gaza Strip, where poverty is pervasive and a majority of the 650,000 residents are refugees, outward signs of Islamic influence, such as traditional long dresses and veils for women, are

more prevalent than in the relatively prosperous West Bank. The uprising began Dec. 9 in the Jehalyia refugee camp near Gaza city.

Holy war

Ahmed Hashem Al Saffawi, 53, who owns a pharmacy in Jebalya, said the stage of revolt was set by a group founded in 1986 by his 24-year-old son Imad and a dozen fellow students at the Islamic University in Gaza city.

The group took the name of Islamic holy war after the shadowy pro-Iranian faction in Lebanon that carried out devastating car-bomb attacks on U.S. marines and Israeli soldiers, Saffawi said.

Growing to more than 50 active members, the group in Gaza drew inspiration from preachers with close ties with Iran, but Saffawi insisted there was no outside direction or funding.

The Iran orientation contrasts with the Muslim Brothers, who support Iraq in the Gulf war and, as Sunni Muslims, oppose the religious dogmas of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Shi'ite Muslim government.

Saffawi, who joined the Muslim Brotherhood as a student in Cairo in the 1950s and later was jailed in Israel for PLO activism, spoke with pride about the group.

The youths, jailed after carrying out killings that wounded four Israeli civilians, became local heroes when six broke out of the central Gaza prison on May 18, 1987.

For five months they stayed underground, until October, when four were killed in a shoot-out with Israeli forces. Imad and another man escaped abroad, a feat previously considered impossible.

"By their actions and their success, they gave confidence to the Palestinian people to depend on themselves and be self-sufficient," said Saffawi.

This can-do attitude was a contrast with "the spirit and mood"

of the older generation which had relied on outside help for deliverance, Saffawi said.

"We were deceived into believing help would come from outside, and waited for the Arabs or Islamic states or the United Nations to do something," said Saffawi.

Two days after the interview in his home in Gaza city, Saffawi was placed under administrative detention by Israeli military authorities, who can keep him for six months without trial.

The PLO, in response to the fundamentalist revival, has tried to channel some of the religious zeal into its own movement, and has formed an alliance with the student groups like the Islamic Jihad in Gaza.

Religious zeal, according to Bailey of Tel Aviv University, was one of the factors that brought about the uprising.

"It gave people more daring and more of a willingness to sacrifice," said Bailey. "It is identified with a certain honesty, not tainted like the PLO by materialism and corruption."

Zohar Saadat Al Didi, 39, a non-fundamentalist Muslim preacher who served seven years in jail for belonging to a guerrilla cell of Arafat's Fateh movement, argues that a political settlement would stop the growth of radical, fundamentalist groups.

"If the situation improves, then there would be no room for such groups to continue. These groups will become weak and ineffective," said Al Didi.

Al Didi, a freelance journalist who operates from a small office in the centre of Nablus, said even though his Fateh cell attacked and wounded an Israeli soldier, he does not believe in violence against civilians.

"I believe there should be coexistence between us and the Israelis," he said. "There is a possibility of reaching an understanding and sharing the land: Two states, a confederation, cantons, it is not important how."

OPEN FORUM

The big fire

A RECENT statement by Crown Prince Hassan, pointed out that Israel alone possesses nuclear weapons in this region — a "touchstone" of superpower confrontation. One might add, Israel is like a child playing with fire — and without any adult supervision (international atomic energy commission membership).

I humbly submit that many Europeans and Americans would be interested in knowing more on this subject — well before embers of the broomtree come to rest on their own well-groomed scalps. Is not an "Israeli Chernobyl", caused by inexperienced personnel, not a distinct possibility — or worse, ignition of a large nuclear device by some mad Israeli waving a pistol (for God knows what reasons)?

I am appalled that the Arab League has not yet published and distributed abroad a booklet entitled the Israeli nuclear threat. Israelis themselves would also be vitally interested in learning more about what's going on down there in the basements of Dimona. After all, who would pity a snake-charmer that got bit by his own snake — or one who scorched himself by sitting too close to the fire?

Finally, the biblical prophecies themselves speak of a big "Fire in the Sky" one that will scorch every green tree and every dry tree from south to north. Isaiah states that the nations will be "burned to lime," and Micah's first chapter is also very similar to a nuclear event which caused Jerusalem to become "like a plowed field."

My point, once again is simply that Palestinians throwing stones will not catch the attention of America. Not a full page ad in some major newspapers, detailing Israel's nuclear arsenal — all of which is outside U.S. control — may convince many that Israel is the real danger in this region.

Last but not least, permit me to open the Zionist's eyes with a verse from Isaiah which mentions the true Zion as a place of rivers where no ships can go, a place where no one says, "I think I'm going to be sick." I.e., the correct usage of the term "Zion" is heaven above, not Palestine — or don't Israel's leaders believe in heaven above?

JOHN ANDREW BISHOP

ALANNA SULTAN
Peter David Bucher

Questions for Israel about the bomb

By Leonard S. Spector

WASHINGTON — When the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, and the Pakistani president, Mohammed Zia Ul Haq, visit the United States, the press intensively questions them about whether their countries have or are building nuclear weapons.

But when the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, visits Washington, the issue of Israel's possession of nuclear arms never seems to come up, even though Israel's nuclear capabilities are thought to be far more advanced than those of India or Pakistan.

The closeness of U.S.-Israeli ties and the greater volatility of the Middle East mean an Israeli nuclear threat during a future crisis would be far more likely to trigger a U.S.-Soviet confrontation than similar action by one of the emerging nuclear powers in South Asia.

Still, the American press remains surprisingly incurious. Not a single question was asked about Israel's nuclear affairs at Shamir's White House press conference when he last visited Washington, in November. Nor was the matter broached when he was interviewed on television.

As a guide for the seemingly unperplexed, here are some questions that might be posed to the Israelis.

In July, Israel tested an intermediate-range missile, thought to be an upgraded version of its nuclear-capable Jericho-2. American sources said the missile can reach the Soviet Union; within days of the test, Moscow radio warned Israel about deploying the rocket.

Why does Israel need such a long-range missile? Is it hoping to deter Moscow from intervening in a future Arab-Israeli war, as some Israeli leaders have hinted off the record? Has America attempted to dissuade Israel from building this system, the way it discouraged Israel from building the controversial Lavi advanced jet fighter?

Mordechai Vanunu, a former Israeli nuclear technician, is now on trial in Israel for treason, charged with disclosing details of

Israel's nuclear weapons programme to a London newspaper in 1986. The prosecution in the secret proceeding says that Vanunu damaged Israeli national security.

Does this mean that Vanunu was correct in claiming that Israel is producing plutonium for bombs at its classified Dimona nuclear complex, and in claiming that Israel is producing material for a modified hydrogen bomb there? Does this mean Vanunu's photos of a model of an Israeli atomic bomb are genuine? If not, why is he being prosecuted?

Vanunu says he was lured to Rome and abducted by Israeli intelligence agents, who brought him to Israel for trial. Is this true? How did Vanunu get to Israel? Did Italy help? Did the United States object?

In 1959, Norway supplied Israel with 20 tons of heavy water, needed to operate the Dimona reactor. Israel pledged to Norway that the material would be used only for peaceful purposes, and it gave Norway the right to inspect the material to verify this. Now Norway wants to know how its heavy water was used, but Israel will not allow the agreed inspections.

If Israel has not been producing plutonium for bombs at Dimona with the Norwegian material, why will it not allow the inspections? If it has been misusing the Norwegian material, how does it justify this breach of a key nonproliferation accord? How has Washington reacted? Is it pressuring Israel to come clean?

Is Israel's nuclear programme an issue in U.S.-Israeli relations? Are President Reagan or Secretary of State George Shultz raising Israel's nuclear advances in the current talks with Shamir? Was the issue raised privately in November? When was the last time top-level American officials objected to Israel's apparently continuing nuclear buildup?

Finally, the press should ask itself why it has been so reluctant to tackle this issue. Unless there is greater publicity, it is hard to imagine intensified diplomatic efforts to restrain Israel's growing nuclear capabilities.

New concept for public security

The following are major excerpts from a speech delivered by Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Majali to a delegation of the American Women in Amman on the role of the public security organisation in Jordanian society and the role of women in the organisation delivered on March 8.

THE Public Security Directorate has undergone a major change since this administration came into office. The basic change, and probably the main driving force behind all other changes, has been the introduction of a new concept into the organisation, and a new philosophical framework within which to operate. This concept deals with what I have termed as the notion of "comprehensive security." This notion has been used to define both the nature and the scope of PSD's role in society.

When regarded in that framework, the mission of the police force is realised not only through crime prevention and law enforcement, but through a process aimed at strengthening the interaction between the police organisation and the society it serves, on the basis of the following principles:

1. Reviving the social and civic role of the police officer, and adding these to his traditional administrative and judicial duties.

2. Strengthening the relationship between the police officer and his local community, and encouraging the public to take an active part in crime prevention.

3. Facilitating the transactions between the public and the various service institutions by acting as a conduit through which the public can interface with the authorities.

4. Involving the public in the resolution of all social problems relating to, or emanating from, security issues.

5. Willing to act as a representative of other security agencies, and coordinating efforts with them when addressing security related matters.

6. Acting as a liaison between the public and the various government authorities, thus assisting each side in expressing its viewpoint to the other, for better understanding of each other's position, and for channeling energies in the same direction, namely that of the public good.

7. Meeting the needs of the society by ensuring a high standard of service and fast response to most situations, such response not exceeding a few minutes in most cases.

8. Ensuring that sufficient resources exist within the organisation to give nationwide service in all areas of jurisdiction, without the need to depend on other agencies to perform the required tasks.

8. And finally, defining an overall strategic plan to ensure that security prevails, and developing goals and objectives for the authorities to adopt in order to support such a plan, and coordinating with the various organisations and institutions involved in the maintenance of such a plan.

In order to put into effect this philosophy of comprehensive security, the idea of the security centre was born, and the security centre itself needed to be created.

The security centre is the smallest organisational unit within the public security organisation. It is a centre at which are offered all the services available at PSD, and even some that aren't. The centre has a limited and well-defined geographical jurisdiction to ensure a high quality of service.

Whereas the security centre is the smallest unit in the structure, it nonetheless has an abundance of functions to perform, and it enjoys a high degree of autonomy

in its operations. It only looks to the higher echelons within the structure for direction and support, if required.

The creation of the security centre, and the corresponding elimination of two other levels in the organisational structure, namely what used to be called the "police station" and the "area police," has resulted in an organisational structure that consists of only three levels of command: At the lowest level, as has been previously stated, is the security centre. Some 60 of those are planned to be distributed across the Kingdom. The geographical area of jurisdiction of the typical security centre will be between 5 and 10 square kilometres, while the population that each centre will serve will typically be about 50,000 people.

At the next level up is what is called a regional directorate. Jordan is divided into 10 geographical regions. The western part of the country is primarily urban, and that part of the country is divided into nine regions: Four in the north, four in the south, with the Amman region lying roughly in the middle. The eastern part of the country is primarily a desert area. The nine regions are each controlled by a regional directorate, while the desert region falls under the command of the desert police.

At the highest level of the organisational structure is the Public Security Directorate, which has overall control and responsibility for all police, security and law enforcement functions in the Kingdom.

It can be seen from the structure I have described that only two steps exist between the lowest level of the organisation — the security centre — at which most of the public interface takes place, and the highest level, namely the director general of the

public security organisation.

The reason why this structure has needed to be developed was no accident. It was a necessary structure to support the many functions performed by the PSD. Most people labour under the misconception that the public security organisation is a typical police force, dealing primarily with traffic offences and traditional law enforcement. Nothing is further from the truth. The functions that lie within the jurisdiction of the public security organisation are as varied as they are demanding.

Naturally, our success in meeting the challenges facing us could not have come about without the total dedication of every member of the police force that I am so proud to command. This includes officers and enlisted men and women all over the country, constantly striving to provide for the citizens of this country all kinds of services aimed at improving the quality of life, and to create an atmosphere of inviolable security and calm to be enjoyed by one and all.

The contribution of the police woman to the success of the implementation of the overall plan cannot be underestimated, for she has stood steadfast next to her brother officers in the fight against crime, and in the service of her country. The Jordanian experience with police women is unique in the area, and is now serving as a model for many other neighbouring countries.

The participation of women in the police force started some 13 years ago. The first batch of recruits consisted of nine women, performing limited functions. In contrast, the most recent batch of women recruits was in excess of 70 successful applicants, their number being limited only for purposes of maintaining the standard.

Saudi missile deal with China sends warning to Iran, U.S.

By Ashraf Fouad
Reuters

BAHRAIN — Saudi Arabia's surprise purchase of Chinese ground-to-ground missiles is a clear warning to Iran not to extend the "war of the cities" beyond Iraqi targets, diplomats in the region said.

The weapons deal with Peking is also seen as a slap in the face to the United States, Riyadh's traditional arms source, after a string of arms purchases were blocked by pro-Israeli lobbyists in Congress.

Despite concern in Israel and thinly-veiled warnings from an aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir against deployment, the diplomats do not believe the missiles were bought for use against the Zionist state.

Saudi Arabia last Saturday confirmed it had bought an undisclosed number of medium-range missiles from China, a nation which it does not even officially recognise.

"The missiles are not aimed Israel's way," said one Gulf-based diplomat. "Saudi Arabia is building up its defences in

general and the weapon is a deterrent against any potential threat from the Iran-Iraq war."

Iran and Iraq have rained what are believed to be Soviet Scud-B missiles on each others' capitals since the war of the cities re-erupted February 27 after nearly a year of an informal truce in attacks against civilians.

The diplomats said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, both strong backers of Iraq against Iran, are increasingly worried Tehran might escalate the conflict by going for targets outside Iraqi borders.

"Kuwait certainly has good reason to be worried Iran might send a missile in its direction," said one diplomat.

Ironically, it was Chinese-built "Silkworm" missiles that Iran fired at Kuwaiti oil installations and tankers last year as the shipping war flared. Saudi Arabia was believed to have made its annoyance with Peking clearly felt at the time.

Kuwait has since strengthened its anti-missile defences but diplomats said Riyadh also wanted to plug a gap in its

arsenal and send a clear warning to Tehran.

Message to U.S.

"It does not seem like the Saudis to come out and trumpet it all over the place," said another diplomat. "Their message to the Americans is: 'do not take us for granted. If you don't give us what we want we will look elsewhere'."

NEWS ANALYSIS

Saudi Arabia has said the Chinese CSS-2 type missiles do not carry nuclear warheads and will be deployed for defence reasons because of instability in the Middle East.

But the missiles' 3,500-kilometre range gives Riyadh the capability of striking deep into Iran. Tehran is only about 960 kilometres away from a key Saudi military base.

By contrast, one diplomat said, Israel is within a "stone's throw" of Saudi borders and Saudi Arabia would have no need for Chinese missiles if it

wished to reach Israeli targets. Eilat, Israel's only outlet to the Red Sea, is within sight of Saudi territory.

Diplomats said Saudi Arabia appeared not to have approached its traditional Western allies to seek missiles before turning to Peking, probably anticipating a rebuff by Washington.

The move was surprising in the sense that Saudi Arabia views communism as atheistic and has no formal diplomatic ties with Peking or Moscow. Riyadh still views Taiwan as the legitimate government of China.

A high-ranking Taiwanese military delegation toured Saudi bases last week and some diplomats believe the missiles deal includes on-the-spot training by Chinese experts.

That, they believe, would be the first time Saudi Arabia's military forces received training from a communist state.

Diplomats say Riyadh has recently softened its stance against Peking and Moscow, contacting both as part of a Gulf drive to rally support for

last year's United Nations Iran-Iraq war ceasefire call. Trade ties have also been growing steadily.

U.S. arms sales to Arab states have always faced an uphill struggle in Congress from Israeli's supporters.

Non-starter

With tension running high in the Arab World over the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, a U.S. missile deal would almost certainly have been a non-starter while Secretary of State George Shultz is trying to broker a Middle East peace plan.

The United States has already criticised the sale, with the State Department describing it as "another part of a disturbing regional trend in surface-to-surface missile proliferation."

Congress voted last year to restrict the sale of F-15E advanced fighters to Saudi Arabia, limiting the kingdom to an older version. It also barred the sale of Stinger missiles.

Kuwait: Any attack on S. Arabia will be aggression on GCC

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait said Saturday any Israeli strike against Saudi Arabia's newly-acquired Chinese missiles would be considered an act of aggression against all six states in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).



Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who is also acting prime minister, told reporters: "Our relations with Saudi Arabia are within the context of the GCC and we believe that aggression against any Gulf state means aggression against all other countries in the GCC."

An Israeli official was reported last week to have threatened a pre-emptive strike against the CSS-2 medium-range missiles. The remarks were later denied.

President Reagan Friday warned Israel against any such action. A White House spokesman said Washington was urging "calm and consideration on both sides."

The missiles, with 3,500-kilometre range, can reach Iran, Israel, and parts of the Soviet Union. They could also carry nuclear warheads but both Peking and Riyadh say they will not be modified to do so.

Syria, Jordan and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) have also pledged to support Saudi Arabia in the event of any Israeli attack.

The GCC groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley confirmed that the U.S. administration had cautioned Israel not to take action against the missiles.

Oakley refused to comment on reports that the Israeli air force has been conducting low-level practice bombing runs.

Reagan, asked how the United States would feel about Israeli attacks on the Saudi sites, said, "naturally, we would be totally opposed to any such thing and

hope that they are not considering any such act."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in Cairo Thursday that he had sent an urgent message to Reagan urging him to "use his influence with Israel and urge it to stop threatening Arab states in this irresponsible way."

Mubarak said such an attack would "blow up the entire peace process" in the Middle East.

On Wednesday, an unidentified Egyptian official said Cairo would consider any Israeli attack on the installations an attack on Egypt itself.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, a senior aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said: "Israel has a tradition of not standing quietly when there is a real threat against it. The question is if this is a threat or not. There are people to deal with it, the cabinet, the government."

Israel Radio reported that

Turkey denies Iraqi planes using its air space for raids

ANKARA (AP) — The Foreign Ministry Saturday denied Iranian allegations that Iraqi warplanes have flown through Turkish airspace in recent days to bomb Iranian targets, the Foreign Ministry said.

Iran and Turkey exchanged protest notes Friday following the bombing of a Turkish border post on the Iraqi frontier by an Iranian warplane.

Turkey said that the bombing appeared aimed at destroying the Habur bridge on the main highway linking Iraq and Turkey.

Iran responded with a protest note claiming Iraqi warplanes repeatedly used Turkish airspace for attacks on Iran. Iran denied also bombing the border post.

On Tuesday two Iraqi jetfighters violated Turkish airspace when they bombed Kurdish guerrilla bases in a joint security zone along the border.

In the southeast Turkey shares borders with both Iraq and Iran. Throughout the Gulf war, Turkey has tried to keep good relations with both Iran and Iraq.

Continued from page one

3 more killed in uprising; Gaza mayor resigns

(Continued from page 1)

to severely punish all those who do not comply with the national consensus and refuse to resign."

In the town of Al Birah, hundreds of Palestinians hurled stones at the municipality building, carried placards and shouted slogans calling on the local council to resign, Arab sources said.

News photographers said Hebron was declared a closed military area and roads leading to Ramallah from Jerusalem had restricted access.

The PPS said a boy of 17 was seriously wounded during clashes with the army in Sair village near Hebron. It reported widespread demonstrations throughout the West Bank. In Bethlehem, where a soldier

was the first Israeli to die last Sunday in the uprising, about 100 Palestinians hurled stones and bottles at the police station from rooftops and set fire to tyres in the streets, eyewitnesses told Reuters.

They said troops fired tear-gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition during two hours of clashes in the alleys of Bethlehem, where slogans on the walls called on municipal workers to resign.

For the third consecutive day in Arab Jerusalem, police searched Arab cars and questioned Palestinian passers-by at check points, causing serious traffic jams.

Palestinian sources said the checks were carried out during the few hours when leaders of the uprising permitted shops to open as part of their strategy to halt

commercial activity.

The PPS reported that police were preventing Palestinians from entering the commercial centre in Arab Jerusalem.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources reported protests in the villages of Beit Hanoun, Bani Suhira and Abasan and in the beach refugee camp Friday night and Saturday.

They said troops forced shopkeepers to close their stores and threw tear gas grenades into vegetable markets in Gaza City, Rafah and Khan Younis.

The PPS said six Arab children, aged between six and 14, were admitted to Shifa hospital in Gaza Saturday suffering from bone fractures after they were beaten by troops who stormed the Al Bureij refugee camp.

Reagan declares innocence of ex-aides in Irangate

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, breaking with the tradition of presidential silence on pending court cases, has declared the innocence of former aides facing criminal trials over the Iran-contra arms scandal.

Reagan's comments to students about former aide Oliver North and former National Security Adviser John Poindexter could bring problems, legal experts said.

They could also stir political controversy, as did former President Richard Nixon in 1970 when he declared Charles Manson guilty of mass murder before Manson was convicted of killing actress Sharon Tate and others.

It is the usual American practice that presidents do not comment on pending criminal trials and in the past Reagan has said only that he knew of no laws that were broken.

On Friday, he went much further.

"Taking 'just one more' question at the end of a meeting with students visiting the White House, Reagan firmly declared North and Poindexter innocent."

"I just have to believe that they're going to be found innocent because I don't think they were guilty of any wrongdoing or any crime," he said.

"I still think Oliver North is a hero," added Reagan, echoing his 1986 comment to Time magazine shortly after the Iran-contra scandal broke with the disclosure of secret arms sales to Iran in breach of a U.S. embargo.

North, Poindexter and their co-defendants in the case, retired Air Force General Richard Secord and Iranian-American businessman Albert Hakim, pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges of conspiracy, theft and fraud.

The theft and fraud charges stem from the alleged diversion of profits from the arms sales to U.S.-backed contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Reagan would not say whether he might grant pardons to his two former aides. "Any talk about what I might do about pardons or so forth, with the case before the courts, that's something I can't

discuss right now," he said.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater played down the significance of Reagan's comments.

"He's a man who tells what he thinks and that's what he thinks," Fitzwater told reporters.

However, Justice Department officials, who asked not to be identified, and outside legal experts said Reagan's remarks could prejudice legal proceedings in the Iran-contra case.

"It is clearly a potential jury selection problem," said a former government prosecutor. "The former prosecutor said it was normally difficult to select an impartial jury after such highly publicised comments from a man of Reagan's stature."

He and other experts said the comments also raised legal problems because Reagan was a potential witness in the trial of the four defendants, for which no date has been set.

Shultz meets PNC members

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"America still says 'no' to the PLO, 'no' to the Palestinians' right to self-determination, 'no' to the Palestinian state, 'no' to the representation of the PLO at this conference. We say 'no' to this American position," Arafat said.

Arafat, who arrived in Baghdad Friday after visits to several Arab capitals, said Saturday he would push an Arab summit conference expected to convene next month to support the Palestinians' position.

He said he would press Arab leaders to renew their backing for the PLO as the Palestinians' sole representative.

Asked about a report by the Paris-based Palestinian magazine, Al Youm Al Sabi'a, that he had asked Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to persuade Washington the PLO should attend any peace conference, Arafat said: "No one else can speak on behalf of the Palestinian people at such a conference."

Masri briefs EC envoys

(Continued from page 1)

the failure of the Philippine government to honour its commitment to implement the (1975) Tripoli agreement," Reuters reported.

Ambassador Juan Saez said in a statement to Reuters Manila objected to the resolution because it was not a government failure which had held up autonomy for 13 Muslim provinces referred to in the Tripoli agree-

ment, but a failure of negotiations.

He also criticised the OIC for referring to "repression inflicted on the Bangsamoro (Philippine Muslim) people and denial of their fundamental rights."

"It's a mere allegation of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)," he said.

But Saez welcomed a decision by the OIC not to allow the rebel MNLF to become a full member.



Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (right) confers with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal (centre) and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa during the last working session of the conference of Islamic foreign ministers (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

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AMMAN JORDAN

Jordan's creditworthiness improves Tokyo, Berne and Bonn top world ratings in credit survey

NEW YORK (AP) — Switzerland has displaced West Germany as the world's second most credit-worthy nation behind Japan, a new survey of international bankers reveals.

The United States — for many years the bankers' number one darling — remains stuck in fourth place. And in general the world's bankers seem to be taking a gloomier view of the world debt situation.

In a survey of 112 nations, Institutional Investor, an American financial magazine, found that the average country's credit rating to March had dropped considerably from a similar survey last September.

Every six months the New York-based monthly asks about 100 international banks to rate the creditworthiness of more than 100 nations on a scale of 0 to 100. In the magazine's March survey Japan ranks number one with a score of 94.6 and North Korea 112th with 4.0.

The global average rating was 38.9 down 0.4 points from last September, and down 1.1 points from March 1987. Institutional Investor noted that was the fourth consecutive drop from the peak of 40.6 attained in March 1986.

Countries with higher credit ratings generally find it easier to borrow from international com-

mercial banks and are likely to obtain more favourable credit terms.

"The most stable region in recent surveys has been Western Europe," the magazine says, "but this time it registered the biggest gain of any region, rising 0.6 points to 73.9."

Oee banker noted that a rising Deutschmark may cause export difficulties for West Germany, and it faces greater unemployment difficulties than Switzerland.

Portugal's rating rose 2.2 points, thanks largely to "an austerity programme... European Community entry, and... full-fledged transition to democracy," the magazine said.

Despite Japan's pre-eminence, the Asia-Pacific region, comprising 19 countries, "led the decline with a sizeable 1.4 point fall" in the average country rating.

Australia fell 2.2 points the second-largest drop in the survey, due mainly to "continued balance of payments deficits... and the fact that its borrowing has now reached a very high percentage of gross national product."

The Middle East, comprising 14 nations, was up an average 0.4 points "largely because of news is good news for the region."

"The biggest gainer was Cyprus, up 1.9 points, because of... consistent improvement in the current account."

Jordan advanced 0.4 points to a credit rating of 36.0, ranking the Kingdom 49, up from 51, on the scale of countries.

In Eastern Europe, "the big gainer was Romania, up 2.2 points because of increased banker confidence that it would maintain its repayment schedule."

"Africa had more gainers than losers — 14 nations to 11 — yet its overall rating fell 0.3 points," the survey said.

"The Congo fell 2.0 points, the third-biggest drop in the survey," probably due in large part to a lack of financial information on the country.

In North America, the United States dropped 1.5 points, mainly because of the budget and foreign trade deficits and the decline of the dollar.

In Latin America, "Brazil fell 2.3 points, the biggest decline in the survey," because of political uncertainties and the lack of a coherent economic policy in the Third World's biggest debtor nation.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Saturday March 26, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	213,508 JD	250,628	211
Top three companies:			
Universal Insurance	85,300 JD	85,293	10
Arah Bank	240 JD	27,105	12
National Steel Ind.	6,900 JD	19,744	9
Parallel market:	7,150 JD	3,392	—
Development bonds:	20,781 JD	229,252	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—



Intensive discussions mark the meeting of Jordanian officials, headed by Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabbaa, and the Swiss economic delegation (left) (Petra photo)

Tabbaa discusses cooperation with Swiss economic group

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Swiss economic delegation met here Saturday with Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabbaa to discuss Jordanian-Swiss cooperation in trade.

The delegation, which arrived here Thursday, also discussed with the minister the prospect of carrying out joint ventures and a 60 million Swiss franc loan to Jordan to finance economic schemes in the Kingdom.

The minister and the delegation discussed the adjustment of the trade balance between the two sides, which is in Switzerland's favour, the exemption of Jordanian agricultural products marketed in Switzerland from customs duty and the prospect of Switzerland providing Jordan with expertise in promoting the

operations of the Amman Financial Market.

The talks also covered means of encouraging Swiss tourist groups to come to Jordan, bilateral cooperation in hotel management training, the addition of another direct air route for Royal Jordanian between Amman and Zurich, bilateral cooperation in engineering designs and projects being carried out by the Royal Scientific Society.

Jordanian officials requested that the Industrial Development Bank should be considered as the Jordanian party which would handle the Swiss loans to Jordan.

The delegation's visit is in implementation of a 1970 economic cooperation agreement signed by Jordan and Switzerland.

Afforestation drive in Jordan shows increasing momentum

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture distributed 30 million saplings of forest trees free of charge to farmers, public and private organisations and individuals between 1980 and 1988 in a bid to increase the area of forests in the country and to help prevent soil erosion and desertification.

The department of Afforestation and Soil Preservation Director Ghaleb Abu Arabi said in a statement Saturday.

Abu Arabi said that the department was going ahead with plans to protect the environment, improve the climate, increase water resources and produce more timber through planting as many trees as possible in all parts of the Kingdom.

Between 1980 and 1988, the Ministry of Agriculture planted trees over 200,000 dunums of land, especially along the mountain slopes to stop soil erosion, Abu Arabi noted.

The ministry, he said, is going ahead with plans to increase the area of pasture land by sowing seeds and planting bushes which have a high nutritional value for animals.

Nearly 100,000 dunums of land have been sown with shrubs and seeds over the past eight years, Abu Arabi pointed out.

In addition, he said, the ministry is carrying out a project for planting trees alongside roads and streets in a bid to beautify the country and to build a wind-break fence.

Abu Arabi said the department has opened agricultural roads in the forest regions and hilly areas and distributed fruit trees to farmers in Ma'in, Madaba, Shohak, and Qarun in cooperation with the Jordan Cooperative Organisation.

The ministry, he concluded, has permitted farmers in some cases to benefit from the wood to make charcoal and timber for domestic use.

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Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 19, '88 and ending Wednesday, March 23, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	65	87	1.340	1.340	1,000
Petra Bank	100	199	2.000	1.990	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	735	1292	1.760	1.740	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	5330	8268	1.590	1.600	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	350	418	1.200	1.200	1,000
Housing Bank	6930	11590	1.600	1.680	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	800	1680	2.120	2.100	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	1436	43080	30.000	30.000	5,000
Bank of Jordan	2985	48092	16.200	16.100	5,000
Arab Bank	730	82800	113.500	114.750	10,000
Jordan National Bank	16343	40272	2.450	2.470	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	19928	23116	1.180	1.160	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	19750	26931	1.870	1.860	1,000
Finance and Credit Corporation	17855	10383	0.580	0.580	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	7650	13770	1.830	1.800	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	8678	7117	0.830	0.810	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2,000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10,000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	11246	58190	5.470	5.200	1,000
RESCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	300	282	0.940	0.940	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	1000	1080	1.100	1.080	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Universal Insurance	80605	66400	0.720	0.910	1,000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
Al-Izhar Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Abliya Insurance	1000	1274	1.260	1.280	1,000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Services and industries					
General Investments	1922	2524	1.330	1.320	1,000
Inna for Investment and Financial Facilities	169	101	0.610	0.600	1,000
Darco for Housing and Investment	29270	1,109	0.430	0.450	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	9700	4069	0.420	0.420	1,000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	4301	1408	0.330	0.330	1,000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	54	41	0.770	0.750	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	2450	786	0.820	0.820	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	9547	13977	1.470	1.460	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	—	—	—	—	1,000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	1850	1567	0.850	0.850	1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing	1000	3050	2,000	2,050	1,000
Dar Al Shab Press, Printing and Publishing	9550	3750	0.400	0.390	1,000
Jordan Dairy	3146	3188	1,020	1,010	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	654	1355	2.100	2,040	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	92763	134722	1.480	1.480	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	1293	2900	2.250	2,260	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	3035	4307	1.440	1,400	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	75	319	4.350	4,250	1,000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1,000
Aladdin Industries	35500	48441	1.390	1,370	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	50977	94078	1.860	1,860	1,000
Jordan Worst Mills	100	430	4.350	4,300	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	1000	1050	1,050	1,050	1,000
Ceramic Industries	9720	16627	1.740	1,700	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	18452	13213	0.720	0,710	1,000
Dar Al Dawl for Development and Investment	300	294	1.490	1,470	1,000
National Steel Industries	22782	65235	2,500	2,570	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	40650	70494	1.750	1,760	1,000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	2824	49971	7,070	7,060	1,000
Jordan Line & Brick	149050	35777	0.260	0,260	1,000
National Industries	600	300	0.500	0,500	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	6200	2303	0.370	0,360	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	5682	7328	1,320	1,320	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	3828	2871	0.750	0,750	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	2000	2323	1.170	1,170	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	14799	46763	3,190	3,150	1,000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	25400	16449	0.650	0,640	1,000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Mineral Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1,000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tanning	761	1472	1,900	1,950	1,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	24	326	13,550	13,600	1,000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	14500	14405	1,000	1,000	1,000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	10767	9959	0.930	0,930	1,000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	23688	65627	3,100	2,980	1,000
Jordan Cement Factories	107149	115866	1,060	1,090	1,000
Jordan Glass Industries	6056	6103	1,020	1,000	1,000
Grand total	962,358	1,300,406			

Maan municipality obtains JD 85,000 loan

MAAN (Petra) — Maan municipality has obtained a JD 85,000 loan from the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) to finance services projects.

Maan Mayor Mohammad Kreishan said that JD 35,000 of

the loan will be used to purchase a land for a central vegetable market in the city and JD 50,000 will be used to build the market.

According to Kreishan, 15 dunums have been allotted for building a new livestock market

and JD 5,000 will be spent on supplying the new market with basic services.

He said that the municipality has allocated funds for the removal of 47 dilapidated homes in a number of Maan districts.

British Petroleum plans to change name

HOUSTON (R) — British Petroleum (B.P.) Co. Plc plans to change its name by mid-year to reflect its trans-Atlantic operations, a senior executive said Friday.

E. John P. Browne, executive vice president of B.P.'s Cleveland-based B.P. America Inc. unit, did not say what the new name would be. The company's name has been changed several times since incorporation in 1909 as the Anglo-Persian Oil Co.

London-headquartered B.P.'s unit names include Standard, Sohio, and B.P. Alaska, Browne said. Last year B.P. bought all the shares of Standard Oil Co. that it did not already own.

Some 60 per cent of B.P.'s oil and gas reserves are located in the United States, but with so many different names for its subsidiaries, the company was having trouble raising its profile in the United States, Browne said.

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Liverpool beats Wimbledon 2-1, regains lost pride

LONDON (R) — Liverpool top scorer John Aldridge returned from injury and thrust the runaway English League leaders back on their winning ways against Wimbledon Saturday.

Ireland international striker Aldridge, who missed the last four matches because of groin trouble, headed a 33rd-minute goal to put Liverpool on course for a 2-1 win that John Barnes sealed with a second-half strike.

Aldridge's goal in blistering conditions at Anfield was his 22nd of the season in all competitions and helped him maintain a 14-point lead for Liverpool, who have now won 23 of their 31 First Division games.

The result also enabled Liverpool to regain a measure of the pride which had been denied when city rivals Everton inflicted their first League defeat of 1987-88 last Sunday, ending a record-equaling 29-match sequence from the start of a season.

Liverpool's irresistible form

has left the rest of the division chasing shadows, with Manchester United staying in second place after a 3-1 home win against West Ham.

Defending champions Everton beat bottom club Watford 2-1 away to remain in third place. 17 points adrift of the leaders.

After their 1-0 setback at Everton it was almost inevitable that Liverpool's next opponents would feel a backlash, and England forward Peter Beardsley figured prominently as the leaders seized the initiative.

Beardsley tormented a Wimbledon defence weakened by injury and suspension, and he was only denied a goal to crown his superb individual performance when his 83rd minute effort crashed against the bar.

Liverpool, chasing their second League and Football Association (F.A.) Cup double in three seasons, went ahead when Steve Nicol crossed from the right and Aldridge looped a header over

goalkeeper Dave Beasant.

Fittingly, Beardsley was the architect of the second goal. He provided a teasing cross which was headed down by Craig Johnston for Barnes volley crisply home.

Wimbledon collected a consolation goal through Eric Young two minutes from the finish.

Manchester United, striving for the form and inspiration which produced heavy days for the club in the late 1960s, are set to end the season in Liverpool's shadow, though there were moments for the Old Trafford faithful to savour in the second half against West Ham.

Scott Gordon Strachan broke the deadlock by putting United in front after 58 minutes, and the match ended with a flurry of goals in the last 10 minutes.

Leroy Rosenior emphasised his value since recently signing for the London club by equalising in the 81st minute, but United stormed back.

Another cloud appears on Budd's horizon

LONDON (AP) — While black African sports leaders warned of a possible Olympic boycott over Zola Budd, the South African-born distance runner Friday was effectively suspended from running internationally for the next three weeks.

Track and field's international governing body, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), ordered British officials to keep Budd out of international events until April 15 when it discusses her eligibility.

Meanwhile another cloud loomed over her prospects of competing in the Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, later this summer.

The Times of London quoted Amadou Lamine Ba, general secretary of the supreme council for sport in Africa as saying that black African countries could well boycott the games if she was chosen to compete.

Lamine Ba said the same objections the council raised against her participation in this weekend's World Cross Country Championships applied for the Seoul Games.

Ngugi skips to win 3rd athletics title

AUCKLAND (R) — John Ngugi in modern times to win three successive World Cross-country titles, leading Kenya to an overwhelming victory in the men's team event Saturday.

In a repeat of last year's 12-kilometre race, Ngugi pushed compatriot Paul Kipkoech into second place. Another Kenyan, 37-year-old hillrunner William Koskei, finished a distant third.

In an unprecedented clean sweep the Kenyan team, revelling in the perfect running conditions at Ellerslie Racecourse, took eight of the first nine places.

Kristiansen extends domination

Earlier, Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway extended her domination of long-distance running to the cross-country arena by winning the women's race.

Both the senior races, run in bright sunshine on a lush grass carpet, featured a breakaway by two athletes early on.

Kristiansen and Britain's Angela Tooby took the women's event by the scruff of the neck while Ngugi and Kipkoech moved

well out of range of the rest of the 210-strong field on the third of five laps.

Kipkoech, the world 10,000 metres champion, stayed on the shoulder of the long-limbed ambling Ngugi until the fourth lap, as the two built a 200-metre lead.

But Ngugi upped the pace with three kilometres to go, shaking off his rival whom he knew had a faster finish. The 25-year-old civil servant sat on a 150-metre lead over the final lap to become the first runner since Englishman Jack Holden in 1935 to win three times in a row.

Ethiopia's Abebe Mekonnen, second to Ngugi in 1986 in Switzerland, broke the Kenyan stranglehold by finishing fifth. Paul Arpin of France, third last year, was the first non-African home in 11th place.

The depth of Kenyan athletics was further demonstrated in the

junior race. Wilfred Kirochi retained the title he won in Warsaw last year as Kenyan runners filled six of the first seven placings.

Kristiansen made light of the heat to race home in 19 minutes four seconds. The 32-year-old finished about 100 metres ahead of Britain's Angela Tooby with defending champion Annette Sergeant of France in third place.

The win continues an extraordinary run of form for Kristiansen, who had finished third before at World Championships including last year in Warsaw.

Over the past three years she has won world and European 10,000 metres gold medals, set world records at 5,000 and 10,000 metres and broken the World Marathon best time.

"I have tried to win this race for many years and I'm now very pleased to win," she said later.

"It's always nice to win a World Championship and it's especially nice to win in the build-up to the Olympics."

Any worries that last weekend's victory in the world 15-kilometre road race in the 40 degree heat of Adelaide would

affect Kristiansen dissolved as she and Tooby set a blistering pace from the gun.

By the end of the first of the three laps of the six-kilometre race, the two women were 50 metres ahead of the rest.

Kristiansen, wearing white gloves to wipe away the sweat from her forehead, stayed at Tooby's shoulder before making her move ascending the punishing hill on the second lap.

The Norwegian extended her lead remorselessly and seemed to have plenty to spare as she neared the finishing line.

Kristiansen punched the air with joy as she crossed the line while the packed stands at Ellerslie Racecourse rose to salute a worthy Norwegian successor to Grete Waitz, who won the title five times from 1978 to 1983.

Tooby, the great British hope following the late withdrawal of South African-born Zola Budd, eased in well clear of Sergeant who also finished third in 1986.

Kristiansen told journalists she would return to Norway in two days time to prepare for the London Marathon April 17.

Nigeria seeks Africa crown and revenge

CASABLANCA (R) — The Green Eagles of Nigeria will have a glint of revenge in their eyes when they meet the Indomitable Lions of Cameroun Sunday in the final of the 16th Africa Nations Cup soccer tournament.

The two teams met once before in the final of Africa's most prestigious soccer event. Cameroun won that 1984 encounter 3-1 in tropical Ivory Coast.

For the rematch in Morocco, the Lions are considered slight favourites after conquering the host nation Morocco 1-0 in

Wednesday's bruising semi-final.

However, Nigeria's direct attacking style of play could still rattle their solid defence. The Green Eagles booked their place in the final after a dramatic semi-final penalty shootout with Algeria.

Battle-hardened Cameroun are as strong as ever for their third consecutive Africa Nations Cup final. They hope to go one step further than in 1986 when they lost the coveted African soccer crown to Egypt.

Claude Le Roy, their French

coach, thinks the Green Eagles will be difficult to beat "because of their great athletic ability and their committed football."

He told Reuters it would be tough to contain players of the calibre of Rashidi Yekini up front and Sam Okwaraji and Henry Nwosu in the midfield.

"Our team will be about the same as in the semi-finals. There are no new injury problems and defender Benjamin Massing comes back after his two-game suspension," he said.

"Francois Oman Biyiek and Eugene Ekeke have not yet recovered from leg injuries," he added.

Biyiek, a terrific goal-scorer with French club Laval, and his fellow attacker Ekeke missed the semi-final against Morocco.

Nigeria's West German coach Manfred Hoener told Reuters he would be forced to make changes

in his lineup.

"We have a badly injured defender, Sunny Eboigbe, and midfielder Ademola Adesina is suspended after being sent off (against Algeria)," he said.

Hoener said Anderlecht of Belgium star Stephen Keshi could take the sweeper role. Keshi, a brilliant defender, has been shuttling back and forth between Africa and Europe because of commitments.

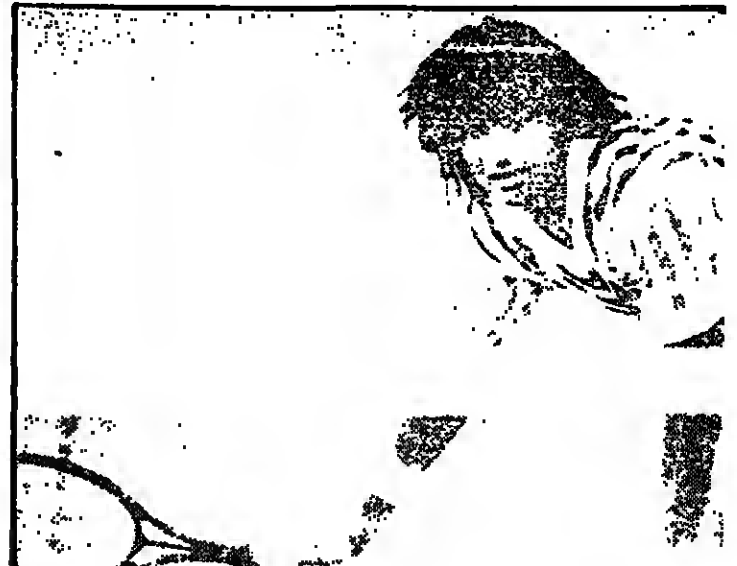
He missed the semi-finals but played in Nigeria's Group B qualifying match against Cameroun last week, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Hoener said Keshi was one of the top players in Nigeria's recent success in qualifying for this year's Olympic Games soccer tournament.

The coach said Cameroun were technically stronger than Nigeria.



Mats Wilander



Yannick Noah

TENNIS

Wilander ousts Noah to meet Connors in final

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — Brilliant shotmaking carried Mats Wilander of Sweden to the final of the \$2.1 million International Players Championships with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 victory over Yannick Noah of France Friday.

The top-seeded Wilander, using pinpoint passing shots, well disguised lobs and some timely volley winners, frustrated the offensive minded strategy of the sixth-seeded Noah.

"I wasn't playing defence at the net, but it seemed almost like I was," said Noah, who lost his serve seven times.

Noah's acrobatic style was a big hit with the crowd, but it was Wilander who was hitting the majority of winning shots.

Except for a brief rally by Noah, coming back from a 1-4 deficit to even the second set at 4-4, Wilander was in command throughout the match.

"I played really well when I had to," said Wilander.

"He was very solid. He didn't

give me many chances," Noah said.

To women's doubles semifinals, Steffi Graf of West Germany and Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, the second seeds, beat the third-seeded American team of Lori McNeil and Betsy Nagelsen 6-1, 7-6 (5-5).

In a later match, the fourth-seeded duo of Gigi Fernandez of Puerto Rico and American Zina Garrison ousted unseeded Paula Smith 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

In the final of the two week tournament Sunday, Wilander will face second-seeded Jimmy Connors, who will be seeking his first title victory in over three years and the 106th of his career.

Connors had battled through the afternoon heat, his own temper outburst and the skills of defending champion Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia for a 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 triumph.

"That was a tough match for

me today. I'll see how I bounce back," the 35-year-old American said after the three hour and nine minute struggle.

Connors wasted his attention and temper against chair umpire Richard Kaufman of the United States during the second set over a series of close calls. For his unsportsmanlike conduct Connors was later fined \$1,250. He will, however, earn at least \$56,250 or the winner's purse of \$112,500.

"I was just fighting for my rights," said Connors.

Connors said: "I was able to win the match because I overcame the distraction of receiving a penalty point, which cost me the second set."

"Up until 0-3 (in the third set) my mind was blank. The first thing I tried to do was get my composure back and get the ball in play. Then at 3-2, I had a let down. Then I tried to stay out there and grind it out," he said.

Finest records in tennis history

Jimmy Connors has one of the finest records in tennis history. His 105 career singles successes since 1968 is an open era best and include Wimbledon, and U.S. and Australian Open titles.

But, currently the 35-year-old American is keen to end one aspect of his career record.

He has gone more than three years and 53 tournaments since his last singles title in Tokyo in Oct. 1984. Ten times he has reached the final, only to fail each time.

His last runner-up showing, in Milan last month, ended when he retired with a back injury against France's Yannick Noah.

On Sunday, Connors gets another crack at breaking the drought when he faces top-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden in the final of the \$2.1 million International Championships.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMA SHARIF
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DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 63
♥ A 10 8 2
♦ A K
♣ A Q 10 9 3

EAST
♠ A K 4 3
♥ Q 10 9 5
♦ Q 9 8
♣ 8 6 4

SOUTH
♠ 7 4 2
♥ K J 6 3
♦ 9 5
♣ K J 6

The bidding:
North - East - South - West
1 ♠ - Pass - 1 ♠ - Pass
3 ♠ - Pass - 4 ♠ - Pass
Pass - Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
Looking at all four hands, it is hard to see how South went down at his contract of four hearts in a duplicate pairs contest. Even if he mis-guesses the queen of trumps, two spades and a trump are apparently all he has to give up. But see what happened.

North was on the borderline between a jump to three and four hearts. He chose the more conserva-

tive action, and South had sufficient values to contract for game.

West led the king of spades and East dropped the queen. That is something you never do with a doubton; it promises the jack and asks the leader to continue with a low card so you can win the trick with the jack. West did so obediently, and East persisted with a third round of the suit, ruffed in dummy.

Declarer cashed the ace of trumps and was acutely conscious of West's nine. With that card out of the way, it seemed completely safe to finesse East for the queen of hearts. Even if the finesse lost, a high trump would remain in dummy to prevent a spade overruff. So South made the normal play of running the ten of trumps, and he lived to rue the day.

After winning the queen of hearts, West continued with his last spade. For the moment declarer had no problem — he was able to ruff with the table's last trump. While East could not overruff, he had an equally deadly defense: he discarded his singleton heart. Declarer was locked in dummy with no way to get back to his hand except in clubs, and when he led that suit East ruffed with his last trump to administer a one-trick defeat!

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Richter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You may be a bit irritated by difficulties in getting your head work recognized, but remain silent and you will be rewarded for your patience. Your friends will be quite willing to support your ideas today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Enjoy some amusements you like with your mate, but be sure you don't spend too much money. Let your superiors see your talents.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): You may find it difficult to solve a problem at home this morning, but don't worry, since it will work itself out as the day goes along.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): You may find it hard to communicate this morning, but later it will be just the opposite. Handle your Sunday routines carefully.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Be cautious in handling any financial or property matters today. If some repairs to your property are needed, get several estimates.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): There may be some obstacles which will impede your progress today, but don't allow your temper to get the best of you and ruin your day.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): This is a good day to complete all of

those little tasks which have been accumulating. Take some time to plan your schedule for the week.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You will find it hard to get your opinions across to others early in the day, but later they will listen carefully to what you have to say.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have many duties to complete during the day, but this evening is fine for social activities. Avoid over-indulging acquaintances.

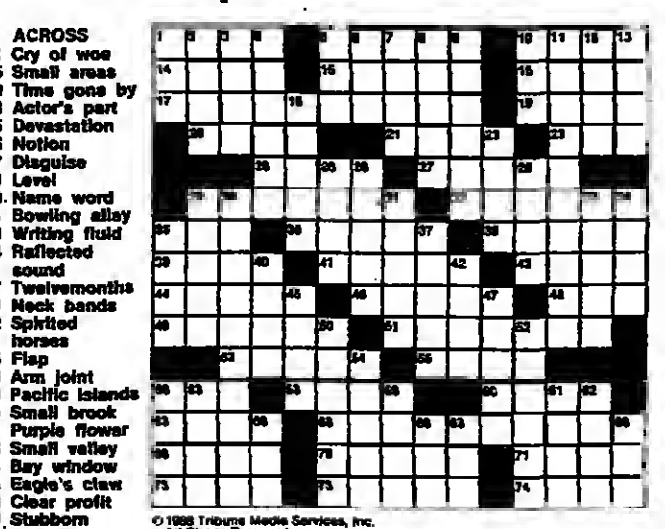
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Study a new recreation before you get involved, and be sure you are really interested. Postpone a trip you have been planning.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Before you make a complaint about a bill, be sure the error is not your own. Have a talk with your mate, and settle that dispute.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): A good friend may be acting a bit strangely today, so try to find out what the problem is and see if you can help a person out.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Keep yourself busy by handling some small tasks you have been neglecting. Don't let an argumentative person disrupt your schedule.

The Daily Commuter Puzzle



ACROSS
1 Cry of woe
5 Small areas
10 Time gone by
14 Actor's part
15 Destination
16 Notion
17 Disguise
18 Level
20 Name word
21 Bowling alley
23 Writing fluid
24 Reflected
26 sound
27 Twelvemonths
28 Neck bands
32 Spirited horses
35 Flap
36 Arm joint
38 Pacific Islands
39 Small brook
41 Purple flower
43 Small valley
44 Bay window
45 Eagle's claw
46 Clear profit
48 Stubbom
51 Opposes
53 Fall flower
55 Bolt slowly
56 House pet
58 Agitate
59 Barrel
63 Great Lake
64 A gradual developing
69 Large cat
70 Spokes
71 Appeal
72 Ground
73 Slumber
74 Snow vehicle

DOWN
1 Branch
2 Bank deal
3 Tow
4 Resistant episode
5 Thet woman
6 Golf score
7 Elliptical
8 Now
9 Localize
10 Pastry food
11 Deliberation
12 Perceived
13 Combat
14 Relative
15 Dines
16 Corridor
18 Circular path
19 Peruse
20 Egyptian city
23 Duty
24 Of the sun
25 Distributor
26 Seasoning
28 Walked
37 Whip marks
40 Table props
42 Price
43 Affairs
44 Relative
45 Inhibits
46 Boggy tracts
48 Competitor
56 Small room
57 Opera
58 Went by
61 Betray
62 Leg joint
64 Terminate
66 Racine
67 Big shot
68 Small boy

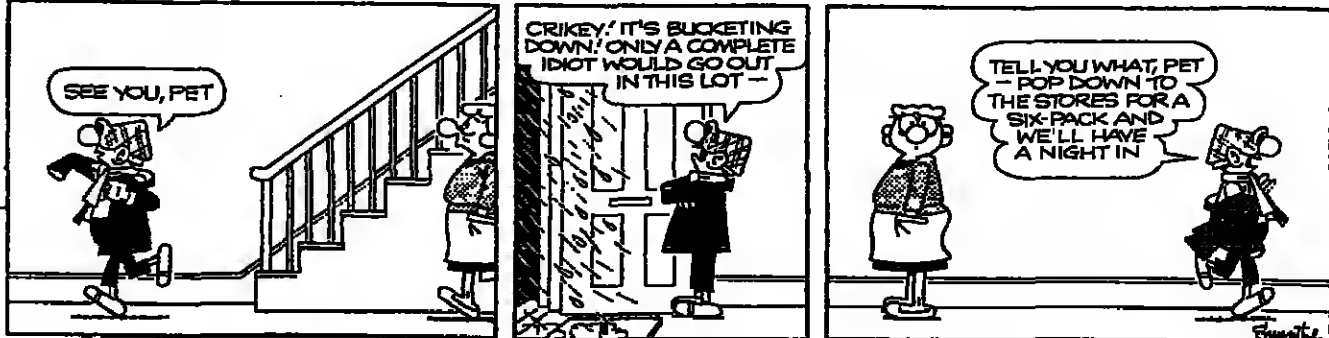
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff

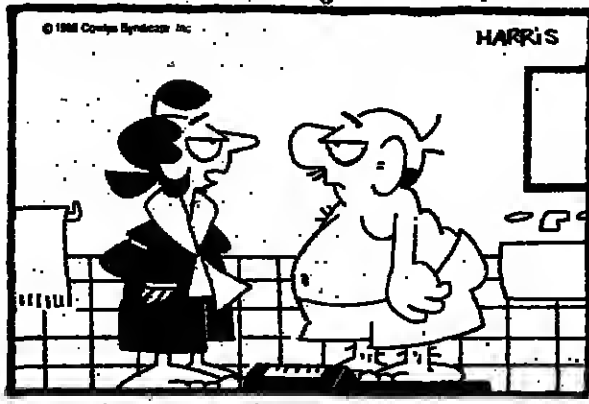


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

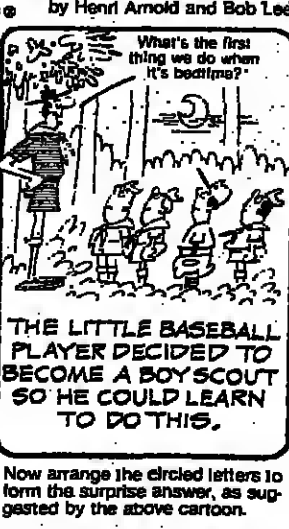
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

STEAE
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

YAIRF
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

PORTHY
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

YENTIC
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □



Answer here: "□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VAGUE IMBUE ALPACA BUSILY
Answer: What makes you sick if you take away the first letter?—"M-USIC"

Annexation activists arrested

Armenians turn their capital into 'dead city'

MOSCOW (AP) — The Armenian capital of Yerevan was like "a dead city" Saturday as Armenians pressing for annexation of a disputed neighbouring region stayed home in protest of an official crackdown on activism, Moscow dissidents reported.

Also Saturday, a national newspaper accused the Communist Party leadership of trying to stifle the volatile issue.

The dissidents also said four Armenian leaders of the annexation effort were arrested Friday in Yerevan after authorities ordered the dissolution of a committee organising the quest for Armenian control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Armenian demonstrations for annexation in late February sparked violence in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait, in which at least 32 people died.

About 15,000 policemen Saturday occupied Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh's central city.

Armenian residents of Stepanakert also were staying indoors, he said.

Bavitsky and Christian rights activist Alexander Ogorodnikov identified those arrested Friday as Paruyr Arikyan, Mofses Gorgisyan, Georg Mirozian and Mehkhak Gabrielyan, all of whom had been pressing the annexation cause and providing information to foreign journalists.

Soviet authorities have forbidden foreign correspondents to travel to the area and telephone contact has been disrupted.

Ogorodnikov said he was arrested and sent back to Moscow after arriving in Yerevan Friday night.

Bavitsky said Glasnost's office was broken into overnight and ransacked in what may have been an official effort to discourage the journal's involvement in the dispute.

Glasnost Editor Sergei Griboyants is Armenian and has been serving as an information

liaison with Western news organisations.

Silent protest

Both Ogorodnikov and Bavitsky said they were told by contacts in Yerevan that Armenians had decided to protest a clampdown on public demonstrations by refusing to go out of their apartments for the weekend. They said the silent protest was being adhered to by virtually the entire 1.4 million population of the city.

About 60,000 policemen were in Yerevan, Ogorodnikov said.

"There are no children outside, no cars on the street, no activity whatsoever except for the troops occupying the city," Ogorodnikov said. "Yerevan is like a dead city."

Bavitsky said soldiers and police with attack dogs were the only people on the street in Yerevan, according to his sources, and that army helicopters continued to fly over the city to keep watch.

The critical commentary in the Communist Party youth newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda contrasted sharply with articles Friday in the nation's two most official newspapers, Pravda and Izvestia. Those articles echoed official calls for order.

The differing views in party organs illustrate the varying degrees to which the state-run media are taking up Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's policy of "glasnost" (openness) and the inconsistent application of the policy on sensitive subjects such as ethnic relations.

The Armenian government Friday ordered the disbanding of a committee spearheading the annexation drive, and Radio Moscow reported overnight that other activist groups were "disbanding themselves."

Another round of strikes and demonstrations had been called for in Armenia Saturday. But activists said Thursday and Friday they had called off the protests to avoid confrontation with security troops deployed throughout Yerevan.

Armenian activists reportedly had planned a demonstration at the republic's government office in Moscow, but only small groups of plainclothes security agents were in sight Saturday morning.

Authorities had warned earlier in the week that taking part in illegal demonstrations could lead to "unpredictable consequences." New regulations were instituted in Armenia and Azerbaijan this week, requiring citizens to apply at least 10 days in advance for permits to hold legal public gatherings.

Hard line

Both party and government bodies have taken a hard line against the annexation campaign and public activism, but simultaneously have attempted to appease Armenians who fear the Nagorno-Karabakh region is losing its traditional Armenian character.

The ruling Politburo has ordered a major improvement in living conditions in Nagorno-Karabakh, apparently in lieu of allowing it to be annexed.

The planned improvements include steady reception of Armenian-language television programming and the providing of more Armenian literature. Other, unspecified "cultural" changes were promised.

Komsomolskaya Pravda accused the "organs of power" of suppressing the annexation effort instead of openly discussing the proposal with Armenians.

"They waited for an answer. And the longer that answer was delayed, the last days of February showed us, the thicker the crowds became on the square," the newspaper said, referring to the demonstrations in Yerevan in late February in which hundreds of thousands took part.

Aquino swears in panel on Muslim autonomy

COTABATO CITY, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino Saturday convened a commission to pave the way for Muslim autonomy in the southern Philippines and warned its members to expect harassment from Muslim secessionist rebels.

Aquino flew to this city in the heart of Mindanao Island, home of the country's 5 million Muslims, to swear in the 44 members of the commission, which is to assist the Philippine Congress in the enactment of an autonomy law.

The ceremonies came one day after six people were killed in clashes between rival Muslim rebel groups fighting for Muslim rule on Mindanao and the Sulu Island chain farther south since 1972.

Opposition clashes continue

The clashes, between members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), occurred 50 kilometres from Cotabato City, 896 kilometres southeast of Manila.

On Thursday, about 200 Muslim rebels attacked two villages in Mindanao's Zamboanga Del Sur Province, killing six militiamen and burning hundreds of houses, military officials said.

"Even now, the forces which nearly destroyed our country continue to harass our efforts to rebuild the country and bring it peace," Aquino told the commission in a hall guarded by hundreds of soldiers armed with M-16 rifles and grenade launchers.

She was apparently referring to opposition by both the MNLF and MILF to the setting up of the regional consultative committee. The rebels want immediate implementation of autonomy, with them heading a provisional government.

The rebels also object to a constitutional provision requiring that any autonomy law passed by Congress in Manila be approved by the people of Mindanao in a plebiscite for it to become effective. Christians outnumber Muslims in 17 of the region's 22 provinces.

'Objects of... scrutiny'

In her speech to the commission, Aquino warned them that they will be "the objects of close and critical scrutiny."

"You will find that you have indeed enemies among those you expect to be your enemies," she added. "But you will find them also among those you help... many will want you to fail, but if you are firmly grounded in high principles and remain rooted in your community, you will prevail."

Of the commission's 44 members, 21 are Christians. The rest are Muslims or members of tribes belonging to neither faith.

Police seeking motive of Bombay airport shooting

BOMBAY (R) — An Arabic-speaking gunman shot and wounded an Italian airline pilot before flinging two hand grenades at police in Bombay airport Friday, police said.

Indian authorities said weapons used by 25-year-old Abbas Muhammad Ali Shahadi indicated he could belong to an international extremist group. Bombay police official Arvind Inambar told reporters.

"We have alerted INTERPOL and our contacts abroad," Inambar, additional city police commissioner, said.

In New Delhi, an Italian embassy spokesman said the attack was clearly a "terrorist" attack. "A man who carries guns and grenades at airports is obviously a terrorist," he said.

He said police had interrogated Shahadi for several hours but had been unable to establish the gunman's nationality or a motive for the shooting at about 2 a.m. (2030 GMT) outside the arrivals terminal in Sahar International Airport.

Police said Shahadi boarded a bus carrying about 15 crew members from the Italian national airline Alitalia and opened fire with a pistol concealed in a handbag, wounding Captain Vittorio Santaniello, 55.

The gun jammed after three or four shots, they said, and Shahadi jumped off the bus and tried to escape, tossing two hand grenades at two off-duty policemen who chased him. The grenades failed to explode.

"Had the pistol not jammed, the assailant would have been able to get most of the 15 Alitalia crew members," Inambar said.

He also said the two grenades were similar to other dud grenades found two days ago in the Saudi Arabian consulate in Bombay.

Inambar said no passport or identity papers were found on Shahadi who gave police his name but has not revealed his nationality.

"He could be from any country in the Middle East, including Cyprus and Lebanon. Unless we establish his identity, we cannot find the motive behind the shooting," Inambar said.

Santaniello was shot in the abdomen and right knee. He was reported in serious condition in hospital.

Church voices concern for Boesak

GENEVA (R) — The World Alliance of Reformed Churches expressed concern Friday for the safety of its president, Allan Boesak, who has been under attack for his stand against recent anti-apartheid bans in South Africa.

Edmond Perret, general secretary of the World Alliance, is heading a delegation which arrived in South Africa Saturday for talks with Boesak.

Perret said: "We deplore this action by the South African government. We are also deeply concerned about the safety of Dr. Boesak and his family. We are meeting with him and other reformed clergy to show our solidarity with them and to learn first-hand about these alarming developments."

Boesak has led South African church opposition to the Pretoria government since it effectively banned leading anti-apartheid groups last month. He is a co-founder of the United Democratic Front (UDF), one of the largest of the banned organisations.



Dr. Allan Boesak, leader of South African church opposition to the Pretoria government (right) prays with Archbishop Desmond Tutu at a service in Cape Town last week.

Dukakis, Jackson close in Michigan; Bush nearer to Republican win

LANSING, Michigan (Agencies) — Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis held a slender lead over black civil rights campaigner Jesse Jackson in the industrial state of Michigan where Democrats vote Saturday on their preferred candidate for U.S. president.

Among Republicans, the contest for the presidential nomination appeared over, with Vice-President George Bush headed for victory. Even Bush's main rival, Senator Robert Dole, seemed to agree.

Dole said Friday for the second time this week that "probably" Bush would secure the 1,139 delegates needed to be the nominee at the party's New Orleans convention in August. A source close to Dole told Reuters the Senate Republican leader was going to suspend

most campaign activity and travel to concentrate on majority policy addresses.

"I can read the numbers and I probably know what's happening," Dole told a U.S. Chamber of Commerce audience in Washington. Dole indicated he was re-evaluating his campaign and would likely "have something to say" before the April 5 Wisconsin primary.

An aura of political fatalism hovered over Dole's hard-luck drive for the White House, as he said of the successor to President Reagan, if it can't be me, it will be George Bush.

Democrats vote Saturday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (1500 and 2100 GMT) at 576 caucus sites in Michigan, a key auto-manufacturing state. Bush won the state's Republican caucuses on Jan. 29.

Opinion polls showed Dukakis holding a narrow lead over Jackson for Michigan's 138 delegates to the Democratic presidential nominating convention in July.

Nationally, Dukakis has accumulated the most convention delegates, an estimated 559 to 531 for Jackson, though still well short of the 2,082 needed to win the nomination.

Jackson was expected to capture a large black vote in Detroit and other Michigan cities, although Detroit's black Mayor Coleman Young backed Dukakis.

Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt, who needs a win in Michigan to keep his campaign hopes alive, was running third in polls and senators Albert Gore of Tennessee and Paul Simon of Illinois were still further back.

Senate urges Reagan to step up pressure on Panama

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate Friday urged President Ronald Reagan to increase economic, political and diplomatic pressure on Panama's General Manuel Antonio Noriega and to give substantial economic aid to a successor democratic government.

Voting 92-to-0, the Senate approved a resolution declaring the current unrest in Panama "an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy and economy of the United States."

"The impression in all our minds is that Noriega must go," said Democratic Senator Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"He will go," Pell said. "And this will help him down the slippery slope."

Reagan was asked during a question-and-answer session with reporters before meeting with Dominican President Joaquin Belaguer whether Noriega would be going to the Dominican Republic.

"No. That's not far enough," the president replied.

Belaguer said in an interview with the Voice of America that he would grant asylum to Noriega if asked.

Democratic Senator Edward M. Kennedy, a principal sponsor of the resolution, said it was drafted at the request of President Eric Arturo Delvalle, who was ousted as Panama's chief

executive after directing Noriega to step down as head of the country's armed forces.

"This battle is going to be won or lost by the people of Panama, and it is important for them to know we are on their side," Kennedy said.

'Extraterrestrial orders'

Meanwhile, in Panama City Noriega accused the United States of "economic and psychological aggression against the people of Panama."

Asked why he would not step down, as President Reagan has suggested, Noriega said Friday, "My president's name is Manuel Solis Palma. I don't take extraterrestrial orders."

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Moi takes oath for third term

NAIROBI (R) — President Daniel Arap Moi took the oath of office as president of Kenya Saturday for a third five-year term. Moi, 63, was declared president without elections on Feb. 29 as the sole candidate nominated by the Kenya African National Union (KANU), Kenya's only political party. He first became president after the death of Jomo Kenyatta in August 1978 and went on to be confirmed in office in October 1978 and again in 1983 under the unopposed nomination procedure.

2 charged with IRA funeral murders

BELFAST (R) — Two men will appear in a Belfast court Saturday charged with murdering two British soldiers during an Irish Republican Army (IRA) funeral last week, police said. The two accused, who have not been identified, have been charged with the murder of corporals David Howes and Derek Wood of the Royal Signals Corps last Saturday, a spokesman said. The pair were arrested soon after the shootings, when security forces stopped a taxi in Roman Catholic West Belfast, police sources said. A third man, seized Wednesday, was still being questioned, they added.

Volcano that killed 23,000 spews ash

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A volcano that killed 23,000 people in 1985 in central Colombia rumbled and spewed ash Friday, and the Volcano Institute said there could be a major eruption. People began evacuating the surrounding area. Earth tremors increased and pilots reported that the column of steam and ash rose to 8,500 metres above the 5,000-metre-high Nevado Del Ruiz volcano at sunset Friday, the Civil Aeronautics Administration said in a news release. The snow-capped cone is about 129 kilometres west of Bogota, the capital. An estimated 50,000 people live within what is considered the danger zone if there is a major eruption. The Andes Seismological Institute in Bogota said it was recording almost constant tremors, but none strong enough to register on the Richter scale. The Volcano Institute upgraded its alert at nightfall Friday, advising that people living along rivers up to 32 kilometres away should be ready to flee if the volcano erupts. The alert meant a major eruption could be expected.

These guys just ain't funny

By Stefan Fatsis
The Associated Press

BOSTON — U.S. presidential contenders need more humour in their campaigns, says a university researcher who describes Republican front-runner George Bush as sanctimonious and former Democratic hopeful Gary Hart as dour.

Candidates need to prove they are human, quick-thinking and slightly self-effacing. "If you can't laugh at yourself and laugh at a situation it bespeaks an inflexibility," says Boston University History Professor Joseph Boskin.

"I think one of the problems in America is we separate humour out from seriousness. Politicians who are obviously concerned about getting elected are more hypersensitive to this than others. They think if they use humour they can't be taken seriously."

But if candidates show a sense of humour the public is more likely to warm to them when talk turns to weightier issues, he said.

For example, the original seven Democratic presidential candidates could have stifled all the

derisive early campaign talk about being "The Seven Dwarfs" by simply playing along with the gag, Boskin said.

"If they were smart they would have labelled themselves — 'I'm Grumpy, I'm Doc' — and that would have undercut it. Whatever happened to play in America?"

'Funny as a doorknob'

The 58-year-old Boskin is writing a book about the connection between humour and social change. And he says he is disturbed that this year's presidential candidates generally seem about as funny as a doorknob.

He labels Vice-President Bush the most sanctimonious in a field full of self-righteousness, and calls Hart "a clear example of a dour approach to life."

The other men who would be president are no better when it comes to humour, he said. "They're basically a sterling bunch, but I don't hear the humanity of humour in them."

Boskin links a demise of lightness with the rise of electronic media, starting with radio. Until the 1930s, storytelling was an art form, and public figures could rise a long way with a knack for spinning good yarns.

Now, with television time so precious and expensive, Boskin said, "Politicians think they have to get everything in a minute instead of seeing things in a larger, contextual way."

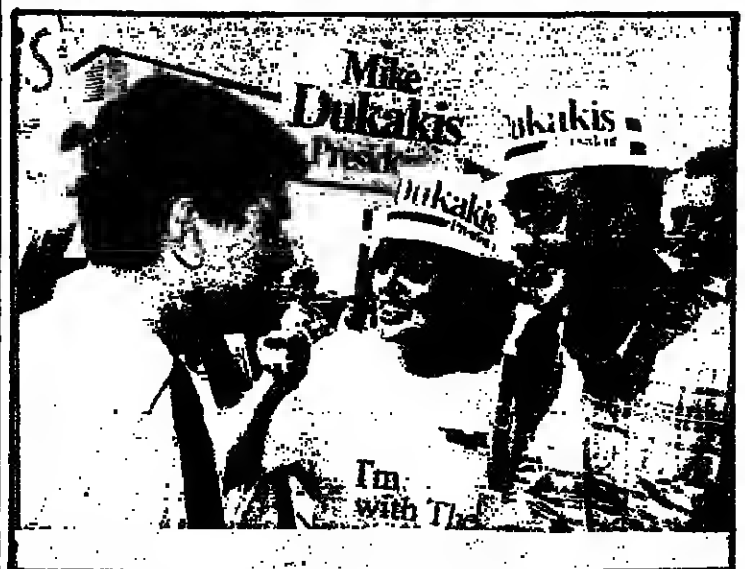


Republican presidential hopeful vice-president George Bush: "Sanctimonious" and about as "funny as a doorknob" (Sygma photo)

The candidates do manage an occasional jab, an occasional jibe, he admits. Bushy-browed Massachusetts governor Michael S. Dukakis recently joked that fair-haired Congressman Richard Gephardt had "eyebrow envy" — a line fed to him by an aide.

"You don't hear them spontaneously making things up as they go along," Boskin said. "What I've often argued is Dukakis needs a levity adviser. The story about him is he's so straight he even lines up his socks in his top drawer."

The funny ones
So who among recent U.S. leaders had a light touch? Boskin admired president John F. Ken-



Democratic presidential contender Governor Michael Dukakis with supporters in Illinois: Looks like somebody thinks he's funny (Sygma photo)

Save the 'passive smokers'

LONDON (AP) — A bill introduced in Parliament Thursday would allow Britons to demand to be segregated from smokers at work. The measure lacks the support of the Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and was given little chance of passage, but it reflected a growing anti-smoking campaign. "Smoking must now be treated like any other industrial health hazard," said George Foulkes of the opposition Labour Party, who introduced the Health and Safety at Work bill in the House of Commons. He said there was "overwhelming" public support to ban smoking at work except in designated areas. The bill would not require companies to set up non-smoking areas in offices, but it would forbid them from firing or disciplining any worker who refused to work alongside a smoker. In a report released Wednesday, the Independent Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health said passive smoking, or non-smokers' exposure to smoke, may cause several hundred lung cancer deaths a year. It said passive smoking increases the risk of lung cancer by 10 to 30 per cent.

No breast cancer pill link

CHICAGO (R) — A study of more than 9,000 women has found no link between use of birth control pills early in life and the later development of breast cancer, researchers said Thursday. The report, published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association, cautioned however that the finding was still preliminary since oral contraceptives have not been on the market long enough for a true puberty-to-old age study. Researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health said they studied data from 4,714 women who had breast cancer and another 4,540 from the general population. They concluded there was no support for a "latent effect of oral contraceptives on breast cancer risk through age 54 years."

A case of house-napping

SHIRLEY, New York (AP) — Dr. Frank Calabro, a general practitioner and part owner of a real estate business, said Friday that he was looking out the window of his office and suddenly saw his house passing before his eyes — literally. There it went, a two-bedroom yellow beach house with a white door, up on a flatbed truck and headed out of town, with a police escort yet. "I ran down the street and yelled, 'Hey, where are you going with my house?'" Calabro, 55, said, relating the events of the previous day. "The cop looked at me like I was crazy," said Calabro. "This is your house, mister?" the cop asked. "This is a house-napping," Calabro told him. The officer stopped the convoy and walked to the back to talk to the man who had ordered the house to be moved. He was gone. "We all stood in the street laughing," said Calabro. "It seemed so ridiculous. Who would steal a house?" The answer, provided by the boss of the flatbed truck, was a guy who sold it to someone else for \$500, then hired the mover to deliver it. The house happened to be all ready to be picked up because Calabro himself had sold it — a \$12,000 — earlier in the week. Then he had it placed on runners for removal to its new owner.

Don't bring drugs to Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — As part of its drive against drug addicts Singapore will install urine testing machines at all entry points into the city state. Authorities say that tests will be performed on foreigners and Singaporeans suspected of drug use or showing signs of nervousness or agitation. The tests take only a few minutes and can detect the use of heroin, morphine, opium, cocaine and cannabis. Police said 793 people had urine samples tested from Monday to Wednesday with a new machine installed at a checkpoint near the Malaysian border. Ten Malaysians and two Singaporeans were found to have taken drugs. Singapore stipulates a mandatory death sentence for possession of more than 15 grams of heroin.